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Arab-African Trade Show Held in Tunisia

MB2710115993 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0700 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] ANC [African National Congress] Chairman Thabo Mbeki has called for greater cooperation between South Africa and Arab countries. Mbeki has been speaking at the Arab-Africa Trade Show in Tunisia. He says South Africa has much to offer such a collaboration:

[Begin Mbeki recording] This cooperation between the Arab and African peoples is important, and we do believe that the transformation of South Africa into a democratic country will strengthen the possibilities, both of the African and Arab countries, to deal with the developed north. [end recording]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th, Delegation Leave for Tunis Consultations

Sha'th To Brief 'Arafat on Taba Talks

NC2910140293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings in Taba left Cairo for Tunis this afternoon on a two-day visit to Tunisia.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the delegation, said his visit to Tunis is particularly important because he will brief 'Arafat on all the developments in the Taba talks. He will also receive his instructions on the issues that will be tabled for discussion at next week's Taba meetings.

Sha'th said the forthcoming Taba meetings will discuss Israel's withdrawal plan, the release of Palestinian detainees, and the transfer of authority to the Palestinians.

Sha'th affirmed the need to resolve all the issues connected with Gaza and Jericho within two months. He said we are prepared to work throughout the coming period, if necessary, to complete all these issues.

Sha'th denied that the Israeli side has reservations about the formation of a Palestinian police force. He said the Israelis have not expressed their opinion on this. For our part, we have put forward the main ideas, but have not entered into detail, Sha'th said, indicating that this issue will be discussed after the Israeli side submits its plan for full withdrawal.

Sha'th said Israel is expected to start implementing the plan for the release of Palestinian detainees next week.

Delegates To Detail Taba Progress

JN3110090093 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The Palestinian delegation participating in the Taba talks with Israel, led by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, brother President Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] political adviser and head of the Palestinian side to the Taba negotiations, returned to Tunis yesterday evening.

The Palestinian delegation is expected to brief the Palestinian command on the results achieved so far in the talks with the Israeli side, and to agree on the issues the delegation will discuss with the Israeli side next week.

The Palestinian and Israeli delegations are expected to begin discussion next week of a plan for Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the transfer of authorities to the Palestinians, and the timetable for the release of Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails.

The subcommittee on Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho ended meetings of the third round of the negotiations in Taba on Thursday afternoon. It will resume meetings on Monday.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to brother President Abu-'Ammar, held a series of meetings with General Shahaq, head of the Israeli side, during which discussions focused on the main issues and on reaching agreement on them. They also discussed the release of Palestinian detainees. Gen. Shahaq instructed the Israeli delegation to the Detainees Subcommittee to expeditiously reach agreement on a timetable for releasing the detainees. The Israeli statements that there will be no more gratuitous releases were retracted.

The Security Subcommittee discussed the configuration of the Palestinian police force, its deployment, and its taking over the positions of the withdrawing Israeli military forces.

The subcommittee on civilian administration held several meetings during which the question of the transfer of authorities from all the departments in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area were discussed. It was agreed to discuss and make the necessary arrangements over the next three weeks for the transfer of authority in 24 out of 38 departments. In the first week, there will be complete agreement to transfer authority in 11 departments, in the second week, five departments, and eight in the third week. There will remain 34 departments [as heard] over which agreement will be reached in the two weeks that will follow this so that all arrangements will be ready to take over authority in these departments at the final conclusion of the agreement intended to be reached before 13 December. Priority in discussions has been given to the departments which have a majority of Palestinian cadres and which have the largest number of workers. The smaller departments will follow.

Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho will be discussed during the fourth round, which will begin Monday in a general session, in which the Israeli side will submit the complete withdrawal plan, which will be discussed and negotiated.

Sha'th on Content of Briefings

NC3110082893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2232 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, led by Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo tonight from Tunisia.

Following his arrival, Dr. Sha'th said that he went to Tunisia to hold consultations with president 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders and brief them on the Taba negotiations.

Dr. Sha'th said that we presented the Palestinian leadership with matters that require decisions. He pointed out that this is the first time that the delegation has held consultations with the Palestinian leadership in Tunisia since the Taba negotiations began.

Dr. Sha'th added that the Palestinian leadership gave the delegation its instructions on certain issues, particularly Palestinian control of the crossing points, corridors, and bridges linking the Palestinian territories with Egypt and Jordan, as well as the corridor between Gaza and Jericho.

Dr. Sha'th said that the Palestinian leadership is following the course of the negotiations closely concerning the size of the Jericho area and the security arrangements in Gaza and Jericho. He pointed out that Major General 'Abdallah al-Farraj and Colonel Ibrahim Muhannad have joined the Taba delegation. Both are from the Palestinian police force that will assume responsibility for security in the areas that will come under Palestinian control. Sha'th said that talks concerning the Palestinian police force and its tasks will begin soon.

The head of the Palestinian delegation added that the Palestinian leadership has instructed teams of experts from inside the territories to join the Taba team to discuss specific aspects of the transfer of authority. These issues include the economy, water, electricity, communications, education, and health.

Dr. Sha'th said that the Norwegian foreign minister has notified the Palestinian leadership of his country's desire to send a permanent delegate to attend the talks in Taba. Russia also made a similar request. Dr. Sha'th said that we welcome that move.

We told the Palestinian leadership about the role that Egypt is playing in the talks and the support it is offering to the members of the Palestinian delegation in Taba, Dr. Sha'th said. He pointed to the efforts made by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry team and the security services, saying that these efforts left a great impression on the delegation.

Dr. Sha'th added that the Israelis proposed moving the negotiations to Europe but refused to go to Cairo, al-'Arish, or Ismailia. The Palestinians, however, said that they prefer to continue the talks in Taba. He added that the talks are difficult, particularly regarding the early stages of the implementation of the peace process.

Civilian and military Palestinian teams will go to Gaza and Jericho soon to inspect the positions that will come under its Palestinian control, Dr. Sha'th said.

The head of the Palestinian team pointed out that another round of the Taba negotiations will be held from Monday [1 November] to Wednesday [3 November], adding that the talks are expected to last for another six weeks.

Dr. Sha'th said that President 'Arafat will visit Egypt within the next few days to meet President Mubarak following the latter's successful visits to the United States and France. He added that President Mubarak is making efforts to stimulate the peace talks, particularly on the Israeli-Syrian track, and achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Gaza-Jericho Committee Cochairmen Meet 1 Nov

NC0111104193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Taba, 1 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian side in the Gaza-Jericho Committee, held a closed meeting here this morning with Major General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli delegation to the Committee.

Ami Glenka [name as received], official spokesman of the Israeli delegation, has stated that the two sides will discuss the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the deployment of Palestinian troops there. He told reporters that the fourth round of negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians is expected to make some progress, especially on the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho.

On the release of the Palestinian detainees, the Israeli spokesman said this issue will be discussed by the confidence- building subcommittee in its meeting later today. He declined to say if, during this round of meetings, the Israeli side will announce the release of a new batch of Palestinian prisoners.

Palestinian sources told MENA that the deteriorating security in the West Bank and Gaza in the past two days will dominate the discussion during the fourth round of the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings. The same sources expect the kidnapping and murder of an Israeli settler by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] two days ago to harm the negotiations between the two sides over the release from Israeli prisons of Palestinian detainees from Hamas.

Jordanian Proposal on Red, Dead Seas Canal Endorsed

JN3110131193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 93 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The working group discussing water-sharing as part of the multi-lateral phase of the Middle

East peace process has endorsed a Jordanian plan to build a multi-purpose canal linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea.

The decision, which turned down an Israeli proposal to link the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea, was announced at a meeting of the working group on water in Peking.

The World Bank has expressed willingness to consider financing a feasibility study of the project.

The working group on water will meet next in Canada in April.

According to Mundhir Haddadin, who headed the Jordanian delegation to the talks, the endorsed project entails building 280 kilometres of open canals and pipelines from Jordan's Red Sea coast at al-'Aqabah.

The project, estimated to cost $1.5 billion, will help raise the receding level of the Dead Sea so that the environmental features of the area could be protected and the historical level of the Dead Sea could be maintained, Dr. Haddadin has said.

He said the Dead Sea had fallen from its historic level as a result of the diminishing volume of water from the River Jordan, evaporation and industrial use by mineral extracting plants on the Jordanian and Israeli shores.

The declining level, he explained, leads to seepages from the aquifers in the area.

"It is important to keep the Dead Sea at its historic levels," he said. "The importance of that is environmental," but (also) the preservation of aquifers on our sides.

The additional advantages of the project, which will benefit all the three riparians of the Dead Sea—Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians—include possibilities of desalination of the Red Sea water, development of the arid, mostly desert region in the south as well as hydro-electric power generation.

The Israeli project to link the Mediterranean Sea with the Dead Sea was estimated to cost $3 billion. It was shelved six years ago because of the high cost.

However, the Sept. 13 agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) includes a clear reference to the project.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Urges Reconciliation in Somalia

JN2910170793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1535 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (SANA)—The Arab League has warned against the failure of Arab and international efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Somalia due to the renewal of civil war hostilities between the forces of General Mohamed Farah Aidid and the forces of Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed.

In an exclusive statement to SANA, Mayhub al-Mayhubi, head of the Arab Department at the Arab League, said the deceptive policy pursued by some Somali factions, and these factions' attempts to shirk off their basic national responsibilities, might cause a deterioration in Somalia worse than the one experienced before the start of the UN-sponsored Operation Hope in Somalia.

Al-Mayhubi regretted the reemergence of the specter of civil war in Somalia, indicating that this shows that the Somali factions have failed to overcome their problems and place national interest above all considerations—something that has been urged and underscored by the Arab League, which held several ministerial council sessions to discuss the situation in Somalia.

Al-Mayhubi urged the warring Somali factions to exercise self-restraint and demonstrate wisdom in handling the situation in Somalia, noting that they have responsibilities toward what is taking place there.

The Arab League official cautioned that the opportunity for finding an international settlement to the situation in Somalia has begun to slip, pointing out that the statements made by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali in this regard constitute a clear signal regarding the possible marginalization of the Somali issue by the international community and the world public—a development feared by the Arab League.

Al-Mayhubi hoped that the efforts currently under way in this regard by the OAU and the United Nations, in cooperation with all Somali sides as well as various Arab and African parties, will be well received, particularly since the international community has begun to clearly demand that Arab and African countries shoulder their responsibilities in this regard. He affirmed that all parties now have the opportunity to remedy the situation in Somalia before things get out of hand.

Palestinian Affairs

Body of Missing Settler Found Inside Torched Car

JN3010201393 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Reports from occupied Palestine say the Israeli occupation troops today maintained their curfew and military closure of the Ramallah area in the occupied West Bank for the second consecutive day, under the pretext of searching for an Israeli colonist who was kidnapped in the area on Friday [29 October].

Reports say troops from the Israeli occupation army and the police, backed by armored vehicles and helicopters, encircled villages and communities in the Ramallah district in the West Bank and conducted an extensive search campaign, which involved scores of Arab houses, in pursuit of the Israeli colonist and his abductors. Palestinian sources in Ramallah said the occupation troops arrested several Ramallah residents for questioning.

An Israeli military spokesman today acknowledged that the occupation troops today found, near Ramallah, the car of an Israeli colonist named Hayim Mizrahi from Bet El who was abducted by masked men. The car was burned and the body of that Israeli colonialist was inside it. The Israeli spokesman gave no further details on the incident.

'Urayqat Terms Settlements 'Time Bomb'

NC0111090493 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, in Jerusalem, by 'Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, can you brief us on the situation in the occupied territories?

['Urayqat] The settlers are practicing violence and terrorism, particularly in the Ramallah area. The settlers attacked Palestinian houses and set dozens of residences and vehicles on fire in al-Birah. They fired automatic weapons on houses and cars and spread terror among the unarmed Palestinians. These practices and others reveal hate and vindictiveness. This demonstrates two things: First, the Palestinians must be given international protection and second, the settlements represent not only an obstacle to peace, but a time bomb that might go off at any moment to ruin the peace process. Strange that the Israeli army saw the settlers' acts but failed to intervene.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, is it true that there are plans to build a Jewish residential quarter in the Ra's al-'Amud area of Jerusalem?

['Urayqat] There was an announcement to this effect by officials in Jerusalem. Yesterday, brother Faysal al-Husayni led a demonstration to protest this Israeli measure. We always say that if the settlement policy continues, it will necessarily ruin the prospects for peace. You can have settlements or peace. You can't have both. There is no satisfactory formula for having both settlements and peace. Settlement-building represents an obstacle to peace; it is illegal and causes many problems. If it continues, it will really ruin any chances of success for the peacemaking process. Yesterday, the settlers fired their weapons and burned houses and vehicles while the Israeli army watched. Unless the Israeli Government provides clear and specific explanations and shoulders its responsibilities, the situation will erupt.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What is the meaning of the settlers' actions? How much can they influence efforts to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

['Urayqat] As we have already said, the settlers' actions were unjustified, except in the context of hate, vindictiveness, and their emotional makeup. This is a time bomb that can, at any moment, go off in our faces and the faces of all those who wish to achieve peace. What is left for the Palestinians when they see the Israeli army merely watching what the settlers do? To begin with, the Israeli authorities armed the settlers and issued instructions to form committees to defend them and impart a legal character to their presence in the occupied territories. This is a threat to the entire peace process and creates a very negative impression. This is why the articles of the agreement must be fully implemented and international forces deployed in the occupied territories. When this happens, we might see the end of actions like the recent ones.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] It is clear, as you said, that the occupation authorities are making it possible for violence to occur in the occupied territories. Does Israel have any objectives in this connection?

['Urayqat] I cannot tell what is happening in Israel's corridors of powers. All I can say is that the Israeli Government that signed the peace agreement has not behaved in accord with its spirit. One example is formed by events in connection with the Palestinian detainees. Some are being released in a manner that gives the impression of a mere goodwill gesture, as used to happen on particular anniversaries. They do not consider that a peace agreement exists that demands acknowledging the principle of releasing all the detainees. The same applies to some of our brothers remaining fugitive from the Israeli authorities, houses being demolished, and settlements continuing to be built. These things lead us to conclude: The Israeli Government might have signed a peace agreement, but it does not seek to implement its spirit.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, the peaceful demonstration by many Palestinians and Israelis—in which Faysal al-Husayni participated—to protest the violence in the occupied territories proves there is a trend, both Palestinian and Israeli, to move toward a real, just, and comprehensive peace.

['Urayqat] As I said, Faysal al-Husayni led a joint, peaceful Israeli-Palestinian demonstration. It showed commitment to peace and was also a warning to the forces that seek to ruin the peace quest via continuing settlement. The decision to continue settlement is an Israeli Government decision. This is a danger that makes us say that this government, which signed the peace agreement, is now trying to undermine it by actions such as continuing settlement. The world must confront this fact. All the countries that played a part in reaching the Palestinian-Israeli agreement must perceive the threat and the implications of this development. Who gives licenses for settlements? It is the government that claims it wants peace. This is a major contradiction.

Iran, Arab Country Possibly Behind Gaza Murders

TA2910184193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] In the Taba talks, the Palestinian delegation asked the Israeli delegation to provide it with any available information on the assassinations of As'ad al-Saftawi, attorney Muhammad Abu- Sha'ban, and Mahir Kuhayl in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian sources have said that the investigation is continuing and that the investigators, from Fatah, are checking the possibility that elements opposed to the peace process, backed by an Arab country or Iran, had carried out the assassinations.

Hawatimah Says DFLP, Hizballah To Foil Accord

JN3110125693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah and Lebanon's Hizballah today agreed to work to foil the agreement the PLO signed with Israel.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah said that efforts continue to establish the broadest national front against the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and to reorganize PLO institutions.

PFLP's Qub'ah Denies Resignation, Views Intifadah

JN3010115793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Oct 93 p 38

[Interview with Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council, PNC, by 'Awdah 'Awdah in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Awdah] Have you resigned from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], or have you asked the Front to relieve you of your tasks as a member of the PFLP Political Bureau and the PFLP Central Committee?

[Qub'ah] I am still a member of the PFLP, and I am one of its founders. I waged my struggle under its umbrella in all fields. A person cannot change his nature or change his identity. I am a member of the PFLP. [passage omitted]

['Awdah] What about your withdrawal from the PLO Central Council or the withdrawal of the PFLP representatives in general. Would you explain this?

[Qub'ah] We have not announced the PFLP representatives' withdrawal from the PNC, because the PLO is the national charter and program. We still adhere to the PLO Charter and its national program, and we always struggle in order to build it on democratic bases.

I announced my withdrawal from the PLO Central Council because it agreed on the writ of mutual recognition and the liquidatory Oslo agreement, which deprives our Palestinian people of their rights. This agreement, he added, does not meet the minimum level of our people's rights. [passage omitted]

['Awdah] It seems that the Oslo agreement has affected the intifadah activities. Do you support halting the intifadah?

[Qub'ah] The intifadah will continue until it achieves its objective; namely, freedom and independence. You cannot ask a people under occupation to stop its intifadah while they are under occupation and while they are still deprived of their freedom and independence. Our people cannot be led by remote control. [passage omitted]

Opposition Factions Postpone 'Alliance' Announcement

PM2910162693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Oct 93 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Damascus: '10 Factions' Postpone Announcement of National and Islamic Alliance"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—The announcement in Damascus of the formation of the "Palestinian Democratic National and Islamic Alliance" has been postponed until 30 October. The "10 factions" [opposed to the peace process] were supposed to make this announcement the day before yesterday at the end of the round of talks held by leaders and representatives of these factions to discuss ways of confronting Israel's agreement with the PLO on administrative self-rule, beginning with Gaza and Jericho.

Palestinian sources have told AL-HAYAH that participants decided to postpone the announcement of the alliance "to give sufficient time to discuss the details and means suitable for confronting the PLO's agreement with Israel." They pointed out that the details "concern popular conferences and the aims they are required to achieve in order for these steps to be more serious and practical." They added: "We do not want to announce an alliance merely for the sake of the announcement; practical steps must be taken."

Representatives of the "10 factions" opposed to the entire peace process and the Gaza-Jericho agreement continue to make bilateral contacts among themselves to surmount some of the obstacles and differences among them. Leaderships of the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], led by George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, met yesterday to discuss coordination between them on the one hand and the other factions on the other.

Meanwhile, Hawatimah has reemphasized "the Palestinian people's rejection of the Gaza-Jericho agreement." He said that Palestinians in the diaspora and inside [the occupied territories] "will declare their rejection of the agreement and will work to topple the agreement of submission in the national popular conferences. All this will culminate in a unified national conference which will announce a political leadership for our people and whose agenda will include drawing up the preparatory steps for rebuilding all PLO institutions, including the election of a Palestinian national council."

Hawatimah said that after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement "a meeting was held in Amman between members of the Popular and Democratic Fronts and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks, who carried a mediation message from President Yasir 'Arafat to the two fronts. It was rejected completely."

Hawatimah quoted 'Arafat's message as saying that "the Israeli delegation proposed the plan to him in the third round of negotiations, that is in the days of (former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Shamir, but 'Abd-al-Shafi and most members of the Palestinian delegation rejected it."

Hawatimah pointed to a meeting recently with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin, who asked him to facilitate participation in the agreement and to conduct opposition from within self-rule.

He added that his reply to Adamishin's request had been: "Russia and the United States are the sponsors of the peace negotiations in Washington. So let them supervise a general referendum for the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland and in the diaspora. We will respect and accept the results of the referendum immediately if the majority supports it. But if the agreement is toppled and the majority opposes it, Russia and the United States must backtrack on this agreement and work to revoke it. The Russian deputy foreign minister laughed here and said: Let us leave this question to time; time will tell."

He added that he had replied to the Russian official's concerns over Palestinian infighting by saying "I hope you will pay attention to stopping Russian infighting in Moscow."

'Sources': Releasing Hamas Leader Would Help Peace

TA2910114893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Palestinian sources are saying that the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories would lead to a reduction in Hamas attacks against Israelis in the territories, and perhaps even to their total halt. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck reports:

[Begin recording] [Beck] Palestinian sources have said that the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin from the Israeli prison and his return to the Gaza Strip would permit the transformation of the shaykh into a leader with whom discussions on a political arrangement were possible.

Beyond that, the sources added, the release would lead to a reduction in violent Hamas activities directed against Israeli targets, and perhaps even to their total halt if Israel also committed itself to a cease fire. Attorney Shahbal al-Za'im, an adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, expressed the assessment that Shaykh Yasin's release, as part of the release of all political prisoners, would be greatly appreciated by the Palestinian public.

[Al-Za'im, in English] This step will be appreciated by all Palestinians. Definitely Shaykh Ahmad Yasin has his opinion, and I am sure that as the sole leader of Hamas in the occupied territories, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's opinion will be respected among all Hamas people.

[Beck translates above remarks and continues] In this regard, the Gazan attorney notes Shaykh Yasin's readiness to participate in the elections for the self-governing authority, a readiness that may indicate a propensity for moderation.

[Al-Za'im, in English] I can see that his release will help the whole peace process, and definitely it will minimize the confrontation between the two nations.

[Beck translates above remarks and continues] The Palestinians have also delivered a list of requests in order to ease the daily life of the residents in the territories. The request was delivered through Major General Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Southern Command. The Palestinian notables have stressed that this was a request for measures to ease daily life in the territories, not gestures. The Palestinians would like to see these alleviatory measures implemented before the start of the Israeli withdrawal so that the public could already begin changing its attitude toward the IDF and Israel. Among the requests: the removal of roadblocks, lifting of the night closure, a smaller IDF presence in certain locations, and at certain hours, in order to reduce friction between the Army and the local populace. This pertains especially to schools at the beginning and end of classes, and also during recess. The Palestinians have also asked for a change of tax collection procedures. Gaza Strip residents reiterated the importance of releasing Palestinian prisoners, claiming that they have not felt any tangible changes on the ground since the signing of the agreement with the PLO. This is leading to frustration and despair, they said, adding that this could undermine the political momentum. We feel like someone whose wife is supposed to give birth, but the delivery keeps getting delayed. If we are going to have peace, then we should also feel it. [end recording]

Commander Denies Badr Forces To Take Over in Dec

JN0111083393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Nov 93 p 20

[Text] Staff Brigadier General Muhammad Qudsiyah, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army forces in Jordan, known as the Badr Forces, has strongly denied the forces will take over in Gaza and Jericho mid-December.

Answering a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is the person who will decide when the Badr Forces will enter the territories from which the Israeli Army will withdraw.

'Arafat on Palestinian State, Violence, Talks

JN3110202193 San'a Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has assured King Hassan II of Morocco that the Palestinian leaders are willing to establish a democratic Palestinian state, in which each citizen will enjoy freedom, equality, and social justice. This came in Brother Abu-'Ammar's response to the letter King Hassan II recently sent to him advising him not to disappoint those who supported him at a time when the Palestinian people are entering a new phase of their existence.

Brother 'Abu-'Ammar said: Your advice is in line with the trends of the Palestine National Council. He added that renowned Palestinian lawyers have been entrusted with formulating laws defining the duties of the executive, the legislative, and the judicial authorities. He pointed out that these laws will be presented to the leadership's bodies and to the Palestinian public for discussion.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar stated that the Palestinians are fully prepared to take control in Gaza Strip and Jericho. In a statement published in U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, brother Abu-'Ammar said: We are fully prepared, and even before the signing of the agreement with Israel, Jordan began training our security forces. Similar training is also taking place in Cairo. Other cadres are preparing to take control of administrative activity.

Regarding violence in the occupied territories, brother Abu-'Ammar said: It is not carried out only by Palestinians, but also by the Israeli Army. He added that he discussed this problem with Rabin.

Concerning the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, brother Abu-'Ammar said that the letter U.S. envoy Dennis Ross conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad was very important and that al-Asad responded to it in a very positive way. He added: All issues have been resolved except the issue of total withdrawal and full normalization of relations.

Abu-Mazin To Publish Book on Secret Oslo Negotiations

JN2910122593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Oct 93 pp 22, 18

["Exclusive" report by Samir al-Maqdisi]

[Excerpts] Tunis—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that he will publish a book within the next two months that tells the story of the secret negotiations in Oslo, the circumstances that surrounded these negotiations, and the obstacles they faced. [passage omitted]

Abu-Mazin added: There is no doubt that our aim is to establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. We agreed on a phased and transitional solution as a prelude to establishing the Palestinian state. In our concept, this state will be for all the Palestinians to live on its territories and carry its national identity. It is inconceivable to deprive a Palestinian of his identity and nationality. Despite this, we do not expect all the Palestinians to live in the Palestinian state. This is particularly the case with Palestinians in the diaspora, some of whom could form communities in Arab and other countries in which they live just like other communities throughout the world. During their long years as immigrants, those citizens have established interests and businesses that are hard for them to abandon.

Abu-Mazin continued to say: Moreover, in our concept, this state should possess modern methods of living and thinking and political and religious pluralism should prevail in it. Therefore, on our part, we reject statements by skeptics who say that Palestinian internecine fighting is expected during or after the Gaza-Jericho stage. This is because a democratic regime will prevail and freedom of expression and criticism will be secured to all. Moreover, the ballot box will determine the political forces that will take charge of administering the national authority and the Palestinian government, even though we would have preferred to it be a coalition government that includes all forces. In addition, the Palestinians enjoy a high level of awareness and a high sense of nationalism as a result of the tyranny and repression they suffered for 50 years. All this secures the maintenance of the Palestinians' national unity. I believe that the promotion of future Palestinian internecine fighting is carried out by forces that do not want the Palestinian people to enjoy stability in their land and to continue their struggle to establish their existence.

Abu-Mazin stressed the need to adhere to the Arab boycott of Israel because it is an important weapon in our hand to implement the provisions of the agreement and restore all Arab rights. He said that contacts with some Arab countries resulted in emphasizing adherence to the boycott. Moreover, he added, we are making contacts with other Arab countries in order to adopt a unified Arab stand on the boycott. We, in the PLO, adhere to the issue of joint coordination with all Arab countries. We also adhere to the comprehensiveness of the solution. Indeed, we see this as something necessary to restore all Arab rights.

'Abbas Interviewed on Peace Talks, Future Plans

NC3010094593 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 29 Oct 93 pp 24-29, 64, 65

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, by AL-MUSAWWAR's editorial board, in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-MUSAWWAR] The PLO continuously stressed that the solution would be comprehensive, and Syria adhered and committed itself to that. Now, you have gone ahead and signed, and Syria feels you let them down.

['Abbas] There was progress on the Syrian track. During the cordon states' meeting in Amman, we asked the Syrians where we were heading. They said: We will sign an agreement; we cannot wait for you. We emerged from the meeting with a new expression coined by [Egyptian Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa: "There is a comprehensive solution, and there is the most comprehensive solution". In general, all we did was sign a declaration of principles. The transitional stage started at that point. We were worried that there would be progress on other tracks of the peace talks, leaving us behind. We are the only track with two stages. The Israelis might back out of the second stage and not finalize the peace process. All we have achieved is a solution for the first stage, not the final stage. We hope the Arab brothers will demonstrate solidarity and preserve the united Arab stand until we reach a comprehensive solution.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the agreement's drawbacks?

['Abbas] It is not an all-inclusive agreement, but it is a fresh start that strengthens the Palestinian identity on their land.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the dangers of peace?

['Abbas] The biggest danger is that it will not be implemented. We could disagree over any small issue, and peace will not be established. The Declaration of Principles is not a solution. There are still numerous issues and affairs that need to be settled: elections, territorial jurisdiction, withdrawal from Gaza, specifying the crossings, and the economy. This is why we have follow-up committees to discuss the details. For example, according to the agreement, we have jurisdiction over Gaza and the Israeli Army will withdraw from there, but there is the problem of the settlements and the confiscated land. We would like to know the limits of all these issues. In other words, there are dangers and difficulties. However, it is enough for us to have gotten the train on the track. In fact, we did not believe we could reach an agreement after nine months of negotiations, especially since the 22 months of negotiations since the Madrid conference did not yield any agreements on paper or otherwise. We could not even agree on how to implement Resolution 242.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the positions of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian opposition, as well as the Israeli opposition?

['Abbas] The Israelis asked us what we planned to do with the Palestinian opposition.

I told them that we will take care of our opposition if they take care of theirs. We have Hamas and the 10 Palestinian factions all saying that the agreement is not enough. We told them that the PLO also believes this to be true but that we need to administer things democratically. This did happen on 13 September, the day the agreement was signed. Fatah and Hamas leaders met in Gaza to discuss how to deal with the issue. They agreed that Hamas would go on strike in the morning to protest the agreement and that Fatah would celebrate the agreement in the afternoon. This is what happened, and everyone saw it. We welcome the opposition if it wants to function within the framework of the authority. We understand the justifications of the opposition. There is opposition to the agreement even within Fatah itself and, in fact, within the Fatah leadership. The important point, however, is how to absorb the opposition. Does the opposition operate from within the national institution or outside it? On our part, we cannot accept anything but democratic pluralism. Our people will not accept anything less. We are not afraid of opposition; we believe it is necessary.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is Faruq Qaddumi's attitude toward the agreement? Is he for or against it?

['Abbas] Qaddumi is head of the PLO Political Department and an Executive Committee member. He opposed the agreement in this capacity. However, when he came to the Arab League meeting he said he supported the agreement. He also defended the agreement in Washington. I will give you another example about Qaddumi. In 1985, he was one of the strongest opponents of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. Later, we visited Moscow together and met with then Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. Qaddumi began to praise the agreement, listing its advantages. Gromyko said: "But, Comrade Qaddumi, you oppose the agreement!". Qaddumi said: "I am now speaking on behalf of the organization. This is democracy."

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Some people are talking about Arab fears of a possible Israeli-Palestinian alliance. There is also talk of a Palestinian police force that will possibly help the Israelis to confront the agreement's opponents.

['Abbas] When I was in the Gulf, they asked me: Will the Palestinians and Egyptians form an alliance, coordinate their actions, and forget all about the Gulf Arabs? Such things are speculations. In the final reckoning, we are well aware of the importance of overall Arab coordination. We are trying to arrange our relationship with Jordan so that we will not become an Israeli conduit to it and to the rest of the Arab world. We are also interested in our relations with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and the Gulf states. We must be able to see things clearly. In the future, Israel will have ties with the Arab countries, at least with those participating in the multilateral talks, and for this reason we need inter-Arab coordination. Arab interests are collective. No one disputes this.

As to the Palestinian police, it will be like any other police force in the world. It will be used to maintain public order and enforce the law, not for repression. We need to be sober about building our homeland and allow everyone to participate. We must not imagine that the Palestinian police are being especially formed to strike Hamas. Even if Israel imagines that the Palestinian police will cooperate with it, we see things differently. Think of the significance of Israel's recognition of the PLO. It is recognition of the entire Palestinian people. For the first time since 1901, the saying "a land without people for a people without a land" is finished. Formerly the term Palestinians meant groups here and there; now all the Palestinians, wherever they are, have collective interests and the same representatives. It was no simple matter for Israel to recognize this.

[Al-MUSAWWAR] What will the fate of the settlements be?

['Abbas] The security settlements will remain for the next two years. In the agreement's annexes, we specified the method of handling the settlements issue.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What about the crossing points between Egypt and Gaza, Jordan and Jericho, and Gaza and Jericho?

['Abbas] This is a very significant issue and will be one of the most contentious points. We made tremendous efforts over a long period until the Israelis agreed to list this issue on the agenda. The significance of the crossings lies in the fact that they mean sovereignty and foreign security. It is one of the most serious issues under discussion by the Gaza-Jericho Committee in Taba.

As to the Gaza-Jericho road, it passes through Israeli territory and the Israelis will protect traffic on it. We are insisting that the other crossings be our responsibility. All that concerns the Israelis is that no person posing a security risk to them should slip through our fingers on these crossings.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Rabin once said: Let Gaza go to hell. The Israelis have described Jericho as the cursed city. Does this mean they have given you a curse and hell and everything they do not want to keep?

['Abbas] Gaza and Jericho are an example of the "Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories." There will be no difference between them and any other city in the West Bank by next April. The Israeli forces will have withdrawn from all the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by then, and the center of authority will have moved to Gaza or Jericho. All there is to it is that we wanted the word withdrawal because it confirms that the territories are occupied. The Israelis have said that Jericho is cursed, but it is the same city through which they claim Joshua entered. Gaza itself is the city of the mighty Samson. The Israeli politicians are saying these words for the consumption of their own masses. They said the same thing about Faysal al-Husayni, the son of Jerusalem, so as not to be accused of changing the Madrid conditions. They came out and said that Faysal had another address, in Ramallah. But the whole world knew he was from Jerusalem. Now Faysal and "Shahal" form the committee discussing the Jerusalem issue.

It is my personal belief that things will improve after some time has passed on the implementation of self-government and we have proved our commitment. President Anwar al-Sadat always used the expression "peace momentum." Peace will be achieved because developments have snowballed and matters have proceeded. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Are you considering joint projects with Israel to reconstruct Gaza? Will Egypt be part of these projects, or will it be excluded?

['Abbas] The issue of the reconstruction of Gaza and Jericho is related to the economic priorities being drawn up by Palestinian figures who are specialists in planning. Then comes the donor countries' role. Japan, for example, has decided to give a specific amount of money, and it is possible that it will supervise the implementation of a specific project after we approve the relevant studies.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] It has been reported that the PLO has given a Spanish company the job of repairing a palace in Gaza and has given a Tunisian company the job of setting up a Palestinian television station in Jericho. How true is this?

['Abbas] The Palestinians are now talking about two issues. The first is political opposition, and the second is economic projects. There is no agreement yet on the implementation of projects or reconstruction. As for the report about the palace, the fact of the matter is that we started to look for a house to rent in Jericho. Sa'ib 'Urayqat asked Yasir 'Arafat for 200,000 pounds [currency not specified], but we did not have the funds. A week later, a television company came and rented the house, paying 500,000 pounds. We have nothing to do with this. The committee that will be in charge of planning and implementation has not even been formed. All that has happened is that a Palestinian engineer named Khalid al-Turk gave his palace to Yasir 'Arafat at a nominal rent.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is your explanation of the threats by some Palestinians in Damascus to assassinate Abu-'Ammar?

['Abbas] I do not believe that relations among Palestinians will be reduced to that low level. Perhaps this was said in anger over the agreement. I hope to God that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks will progress so that all these issues can be finalized.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does this mean that Palestinian national reconciliation is linked to progress in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks with Israel?

['Abbas] To a certain extent.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] To what extent has the agreement affected the popularity of Abu-'Ammar with the Palestinian man in the street?

['Abbas] Abu-'Ammar is a symbol for all the Palestinians. His popularity has increased since signing the agreement. The true measure of support or opposition to the agreement is the pulse of the Palestinian populace inside the occupied territories. Frankly, there is no free expression of Palestinian opinion except inside the occupied territories. I am not claiming that support for Yasir 'Arafat is 100 percent, but the majority back him. The more progress the implementation of the agreement makes, the greater Abu-'Ammar's popularity becomes because in the final analysis, people need stability and identity.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] In the next stage, the PLO will start a new stage which will primarily depend on political moves. Will the name of the PLO be changed?

['Abbas] No. The PLO will not change.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will it retain the same name?

['Abbas] This is its name, the PLO. Nobody can ask us to change it. We agreed with the Israelis on this, and we clearly signed the agreement in the name of the PLO.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Does this mean that liberation will continue?

['Abbas] There are numerous pending issues that I have noted and that need to be resolved. We are committed to UN Resolution 242 and do not want to read too much into words. In the past, we used to say that regaining the West Bank was a stage in the solution. I do not say things like that now. However, I do say that there is now a political settlement for the West Bank and Gaza that must be implemented; the settlements and settlers must go; Jerusalem must return to us. There can be no debate or argument over these points. It is written in the U.S. letter of assurances. We agree with the points mentioned in the letter, in addition to solving the problem of the refugees that appeared in Resolution 242. There is only one point of reference for Resolution 242, and that is Resolution 194, which stipulates that those who do not wish to return must be compensated.

We are very clear about the issue of Jerusalem: We do not accept its partition or annexation to Israel.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How much aid has been extended to you so far?

['Abbas] The PLO has not received a single cent so far. It was announced that $2.6 billion will be given in aid. This money will be given to the World Bank. A Palestinian committee will be formed to prepare the infrastructure projects, such as sewers, hospitals, schools, etc., and the World Bank will finance them.

We met in Washington with some World Bank officials who sympathize with us. We found out that we really need to have five to 10 Palestinian experts inside the bank. There must be a physical Palestinian presence inside the World Bank and the European Development Bank because it is possible that the bank could estimate the cost of the projects that will be implemented at double their real costs and then we would find ourselves surprised to see the funds allocated for us being spent on one or two projects.

Palestinian investors have already started to draw up their plans, and some of them have gone to the territories and registered companies and banks to implement reconstruction and development projects.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] When will you enter Jericho?

['Abbas] The Israeli withdrawal will start on 13 December and is supposed to be completed by 13 April.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Israeli media have reported that Yasir 'Arafat does not have the right to visit anywhere except Jericho?

['Abbas] Yasir 'Arafat can visit only Gaza or Jericho until 13 April, but he will be able to choose any headquarters in any part of the West Bank or Gaza Strip once the Palestinian Council has been elected and established.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] It is being said that you are looking for an airport in Jericho.

['Abbas] Not in Jericho. The Egyptian Government has told brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] that there is an airport in Rafah, Sinai. When brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met [Egyptian Prime Minister] Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the latter told him that this airport is included in Egypt's public budget for this year.

President Husni Mubarak has instructed Egyptian officials to help the PLO in the development projects it is proposing for Gaza and Jericho. Dr. Sidqi has said that he is completely ready to help in five areas: first, the airport project; second, electricity; third, the telephone network; fourth, housing projects; and fifth, infrastructure projects, such as sewage and water desalination projects.

The Palestinians insisted that Egypt should be present at the economic conference in Washington. Yasir 'Arafat even instructed our envoy to the conference, "Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh," [quotation marks as published] not to sign anything before Egypt and Jordan do so.

I want to stress here that Israel wants us to move more quickly in the West Bank and Gaza because it has plans for the future. The Israelis are now interested in the Middle East market. This is the reason for the Arab caution, because there are fears of hegemony over the region through this market.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is it likely that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will make much progress regardless of what happens on the other negotiating tracks?

['Abbas] I do not believe that progress on the other tracks will be delayed by as much as five years, because the issues they are discussing are not as complicated as ours. The Palestinian issue is the most complicated, the most difficult. Nevertheless we are committed to a comprehensive solution by the end of five years.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are your views on what is happening on the Syrian track?

['Abbas] I think there is agreement on the main points, that is, total peace in return for total withdrawal. They are having differences over the details.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Suppose no progress is made in the next five years?

['Abbas] In that case, we will not continue our process either.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] But you will already be in Gaza and Jericho. Will you withdraw from there?

['Abbas] No. How can that happen? We will be on our land, and the discussion of issues will continue. The situation will be similar to what happened when Egypt regained Sinai but the Taba issue was not yet resolved. Did this mean that the Egyptians had to withdraw from Sinai?

[AL-MUSAWWAR] The Israeli media have spoken of a Palestinian government makeup and have said that you have been chosen as interior minister!

['Abbas] So far, there is no government. There will be a national Palestinian authority made up of leaders from inside the territories and leaders who are now abroad. This authority will be an expression of the Palestinian people's unity. We are one nation, inside and outside the territories.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Then you have agreed on the makeup of the government?

['Abbas] We have only agreed on the formula. The rest is pending. Administration means authority. The U.S. Administration, for example, is the authority in that country. We are calling our administration an authority because we have been deprived of such things as authorities and governments for a long time.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the futures of Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Faysal al-Husayni?

['Abbas] All the Palestinians will operate within the framework of the existing negotiations. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi will be the chairman of the negotiating delegation in Washington.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] The European countries have asked the Gulf states to contribute financially to the peace efforts. Has there been a response?

['Abbas] We really do not need the Europeans or others to urge our Gulf brothers to support us. The Gulf people are our brothers and will support us through direct contacts between us and them. We do not need a third party to mediate or exert pressure because this is not part of our Arab tradition and we do not accept it.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] It is now being said that negotiations are under way to establish diplomatic relations between Qatar and Israel. During [Israeli Foreign Minister] Shim'on Peres' visit to Cairo, a Qatari paper interviewed him and the interview was published. What are the real developments here?

['Abbas] I was with the Qatari foreign minister and he stressed that Qatar's stand, in turn, does not differ from that of the other countries in the Gulf whose stand is identical to that of the other Arab countries. As to his having met with an official from Israel, this is not a problem because everyone is now taking part in the multilateral negotiations. The Qatari foreign minister has categorically denied to me the report about the establishment of relations between the two countries.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] We notice that your constant moves follow the footsteps of President Mubarak. This happened in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. What are the reasons?

['Abbas] The matter is simply that Egypt is making goodwill efforts to remove the remaining clouds hanging over Palestinian-Gulf relations. These efforts are bearing immediate results. When President Mubarak went to Saudi Arabia, he was not only interested in bilateral relations. He also discussed pan-Arab issues, including the Palestinian one. This is a known Egyptian stand, and we thank Egypt for this role.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] The Arab Boycott of Israel Office was supposed to be holding a meeting these days but it has been postponed. Why?

['Abbas] Some member countries have asked for this postponement and Damascus agreed.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How do you view the Arab boycott in the coming stage?

['Abbas] The boycott is an Arab stand, and we are part of the Arab stand and are committed to it. Signing the agreement on principles does not mean that we have turned away from the Arab nation.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Three Arab capitals have expressed reservations about the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

['Abbas] Only one capital.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Damascus, Baghdad, and Tripoli have expressed reservations.

['Abbas] I officially know that Baghdad is the only capital that has expressed reservations. That is what has been officially said in the Arab League. Iraq has its own view and we respect it. Iraq has expressed reservations until next March, until the agreement becomes a fact on the ground; that is, its reservation is a temporary one.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What about the stands of Damascus and Tripoli?

['Abbas] Neither of them has expressed reservations. We are dealing with the official sides in these countries and not with the media.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Despite his reservations about the agreement?

['Abbas] Yes. This is our democratic practice. Hanan will be our representative in the United States, as ambassador, and Faysal is currently chairman of the Jerusalem Committee. The other members of the delegation will participate in other fields. Two of the delegation members were with me in Washington. They are Furayh Abu-Midyin and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. Others are now in Taba. Perhaps we will consult with Samir 'Abdallah on economic matters, and there are many others. We will choose people from inside and outside the occupied territories on the basis of their qualifications and to make use of their experience. They are now working under the umbrella of the PLO. After the agreement is implemented, they will be the responsible authorities, perhaps more so than we will be. They will all be committed to the leadership and its resolutions.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the future of the Palestinian intifadah, and is it true that the PLO has pledged to end it?

['Abbas] Let us ask first why the intifadah started. The answer to this question is easy: The intifadah started and ended because of the occupation. If the Israeli army withdraws from Gaza, is it logical for the intifadah to continue? Will Palestinians throw stones at other Palestinians?

The intifadah is the legitimate right of every Palestinian as long as there is occupation. When the occupation ends, the intifadah will naturally end. There will be other priorities for the Palestinian people. The children will go to school, the employees to work, and the youth to the factories. We want to live like the rest of the world. We want to build. The Palestinian people are not fans of stone-throwing. They did not enjoy hurling these stones at all. The intifadah did not start just for its own sake. They did not shoot just for the sake of killing. We are not highway robbers, but these were the only methods we had at our disposal to resist the occupation.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the fate of the Palestinian army?

['Abbas] We are now choosing some men from the Palestinian army to work for the Palestinian police force. We have agreed with Israel on having a police force, but not an army. The mission of this police force will be to keep the peace. When this agreement was announced, the Israelis asked us why we were demanding 30,000 Palestinian police officers to keep the peace. We replied that violations of security will soon mean a violation of the system of government. In the case of a state, the army can intervene to keep the peace, but we are not allowed to have an army. We told them we wanted to have three policemen for every 100 Palestinians. They agreed.

They have not verified the number yet because they know that we cannot start with such a large number of police. Perhaps we will start with 7,000, and the number will grow after that.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is the PLO currently going through a financial crisis?

['Abbas] A very acute crisis since the Gulf war. So far, we still do not have any sources of income. This is a well-known fact.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] You have just come back from the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. What is the Gulf countries' stance on the PLO in light of this visit?

['Abbas] I heard something from Shaykh Zayid about the agreement, which I will not repeat. However, I will say that he was very definitive, in that this agreement is in the interest of the Palestinian people and whoever opposes it harbors evil toward them.

I thanked him for his stand. I did not hear these words from Shaykh Zayid directly, but from the foreign minister, the heir apparent, and a number of high-ranking UAE officials.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] The Libyan Government has called for an Arab League meeting to discuss the agreement because it says it violates inter-Arab solidarity.

['Abbas] The honest truth is that Libya's reservations are not about the agreement itself but about the contacts that are taking place. Perhaps the issue that Libya wants the League to discuss does not concern the PLO. Anyway, its request was for a meeting to be held on the permanent-delegate level only.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Has a date been set for the meeting?

['Abbas] A quorum must be obtained before the meeting can be held.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What effect has the Palestinian-Israeli agreement had on the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue?

['Abbas] The dialogue has not, and will not, stop. We are brothers. We might disagree and have unresolved issues among ourselves, but we must agree in the end. We are now trying to upgrade our contacts with the Syrians. Many of us are going to Damascus to discuss various issues.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] When will the Palestinian flag be officially raised?

['Abbas] It has already been raised—not in Jericho, but above the Orient House in Jerusalem, the Palestinian government's headquarters.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How do you explain the fact that Palestinian intellectuals oppose the agreement?

['Abbas] Give me examples.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Mahmud Darwish.

['Abbas] Mahmud Darwish resigned before the agreement was made public. He does not oppose it, but he has doubts about the prospects of implementing it. As a poet, his temperament does not permit him to be an Executive Committee member. Indeed, he did not want the post at first, and I was one of those who persuaded him to accept it. Mahmud Darwish backs the agreement and has called on the people to rally behind it.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What about Edward Said, who is a symbol of the Palestinian intellectuals?

['Abbas] Edward Said is an intellectual, but he does not serve as a standard. He opposes the agreement, but there are thousands of intellectuals who support it. The opponents include intellectuals and nonintellectuals. When Egypt signed the Camp David accord, many Egyptian intellectuals opposed it. People in positions of responsibility accept the facts and have enough courage to deal with them. They do not mind being called names or being accused of things. As the proverb says: "Only what is right is right."

[AL-MUSAWWAR] And what about Sabri Jirjis?

['Abbas] Now this is something new. Has he really opposed the agreement?

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Brother Mahmud 'Abbas, we wish to thank you for the time you have given us even though you came from Abu Dhabi very early today and you have an urgent appointment with someone who will arrive in Cairo on board a private plane.

['Abbas] I had to come to you. We appreciate al-Hilal Publishing House for its honorable opinions about our cause. We think this is part of the overall Egyptian position, without the help of which we could not have achieved what we have.

Algeria

Islamic Group Set To Free Kidnap Victims 1 Nov

LD3110103093 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] The three French consular staff kidnapped a week ago in Algeria will be released on Monday. This is according to a pamphlet released this morning by the Islamic Armed Group, the group thought to be behind the kidnapping. The release date would coincide with the 39th anniversary of the start of the war of independence in Algeria.

Immediately following the kidnapping, the organization released its first pamphlet claiming responsibility. The organization has made no demands, simply describing the authorities as a junta cut off from the people. It gave no details about the health of the three kidnapped French nationals.

Doubts Raised on Promise

LD3110115493 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1100 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Report by Algiers correspondent Alain Menargues]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The leaflet issued by the Islamic Armed Group announcing the 1 November release of three French consular agents kidnapped last Sunday, quoted by ASSOCIATED PRESS, is considered to be very unreliable here in Algiers. It does not have any of the characteristics of previous communiques released by the organization: there is no logo, seal, or signature; just a plain sheet of paper with a few typed lines, which was, it seems, deposited in a letter box, though no one knows whose. The text is not accompanied by anything—such as photocopies of the hostages' identity papers—which might prove the veracity of the claim. Algiers has in the last three days been full of rumors concerning the imminent release of the hostages, but nothing has emerged to confirm them. Therefore, the news about their release should be handled with extreme caution until we have more precise information.

Two French Hostages Freed 30 Oct

LD3110124893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] We have just heard that after the three French nationals were kidnapped last Sunday, 24 October, the security forces carried out wide-scale search operations that enabled them to free Thevenot and Freissier, who are both in good health, yesterday afternoon [as heard]. An active search is continuing to find the third French national, Mrs. Michele Thevenot, who is still being detained.

Third French Hostage Freed

LD3110191493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] We learned a few moment ago that Mrs. Thevenot, the third French hostage, has been freed by her kidnappers.

Details of Release Disclosed

LD0111100193 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0700 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Excerpt] There are no more French hostages in Algeria: Michele Thevenot was released by her kidnappers 24 hours after her husband and Alain Freissier, the other employee of the French Consulate General. Unlike the two other hostages, Madame Thevenot was not freed by the Algerian police: Her kidnappers took her, by night, to the place where she was released, as Alain Menargues reports:

[Menargues] Dressed in a long black Muslim robe, Michele Thevenot was dropped off from a car in front of the residence of the bishop of Algiers, Monseigneur Teissier, according to witnesses, who also saw the French ambassador, obviously very moved, come to fetch her at about 1830 yesterday, and take her the few hundred meters to the French chancellery.

Thevenot, who is in charge of the consulate's administrative office [bureau d'ordre], in other words the diplomatic bag, remained with her husband and her colleague Alain Freissier for the first three days, locked in a room next to a prayer hall in (Oued Korech), an Islamist quarter in the suburbs of Algiers, not far from the Ministry of Defense, before being taken, alone, to a second hideout where she was guarded by a couple, where the wife took care of her.

Michele Thevenot was not mistreated nor hooded during the days she spent in captivity. The kidnappers only blindfolded her while she was moved between the two hideouts, and yesterday, when they released her.

They moved her in the early evening, after nightfall, and before the start of the curfew. This morning she is to be debriefed by the Algerian authorities, as her husband and colleague were, before returning to France, probably early this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Islamic Group Vows Further 'Blood and Fire'

PM2910104493 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Group' Claims Responsibility For Kidnapping French in Algeria"]

[Text] Algiers, London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Islamic Group in Algeria has claimed responsibility for kidnapping the French employees the day before yesterday and for the operations aimed against foreigners recently.

In a statement, a copy of which AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has received, the group threatened to launch further attacks. It stressed that it will use the "language of blood and fire" as the only means of "jihad" in the future.

Meanwhile, the Algerian News Agency said yesterday, Monday, that seven Islamic fundamentalist were killed in Algeria at the beginning of the week.

One person was killed immediately while two others were fatally wounded in the town of Mila in east Algeria on Sunday.

Two others were killed in another town known as a center for fundamentalists, 25 km south of the capital. The other three were killed in separate clashes with the security forces in center Algeria. [numbers as published]

The agency quoted the security forces as saying that five members of a "terrorist" group comprising eight men responsible for derailing a cargo train this month have been arrested.

Three War Veterans, 11 'Terrorists' Killed

LD3010213893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Three war veterans have fallen at the hands of terrorism in Boumerdes, Jijel, and Blida. The assassinations were carried out on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday respectively.

Moreover, the security forces have reported that 11 terrorists were eliminated between Tuesday and Friday in the central and eastern parts of the country.

Ali Kafi Urges Joint Efforts To Combat Crisis

LD3010135993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] [Announcer] The new judicial year 1993-94 opened officially this morning at the Supreme Court building under the chairmanship of Mr. Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council. The opening session was attended by the prime minister, the justice minister, a number of other ministers, and senior state officials.

The radio correspondent Fodil Saadeddine is on the line with more details:

[Saadeddine] In his capacity as the highest judge in the country, Mr. Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council, opened the new judicial year 1993-94 this morning. In his speech to members of the judicial community, and in the presence of members of the government and the presidents of the supreme courts in the Maghreban states, the chairman of the Higher State Council praised the judicial body and the honorable role it plays. He also recounted Algeria's current difficult situation. In this respect, he called on everyone to join efforts and work together to bring the country out of its multifaceted crisis. He said that the Algerian state still exists and is adapting to the situation wisely, patiently, and methodically, out of its eagerness to prevent a more serious deterioration, and by reinforcing the judiciary, which will be the bond in the nation's fabric.

He also talked about the dialogue initiated by the Higher State Council some time ago and reaffirmed that this dialogue is the way and method that will take the country out of its current crisis. He then talked about a frank, sincere, and candid dialogue with all the partners, such as political parties and mass organizations. He also expressed the hope that this year would be a year of peace for the Algerians.

2,000 Prisoners To Be Pardoned on Anniversary

LD3110233893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Justice Minister Mohamed Teguia held a news conference at the headquarters of the Ministry of Justice today in which he condemned the biased statements against the judiciary.

In his news conference, Justice Minister Teguia said that the criticisms directed by some biased people against the judiciary were aimed at casting doubts on the credibility of this body and sought to further the interests of others who did not wish well for Algeria.

The minister highlighted that the right of defense is guaranteed, that the application of laws is respected, and that trials are taking place normally in public and that public opinion and the media can attend and see the truth for themselves. He added that prisoners were well treated according to a modern and controlled system of punitive establishments.

His excellency the minister pointed out that the aim of setting up special courts was to speed up the trials of cases related to state security within a specific legal deadline in contrast to the procedure of the ordinary courts.

Mr. Teguia mentioned that the number of prisoners involved in acts of terrorism cases did not exceed 5,000, contrary, as he said, to the statements of the biased circles that speak about more than 10,000 prisoners. He pointed out that the security centers in the south have been closed, and the files of detainees were referred to the justice services.

In reply to a question about the possibility of issuing a pardon to those convicted in public law cases on the occasion of the advent of the November revolution anniversary, Mr. Teguia pointed out that there was a decision in this respect that would affect about 2,000 prisoners, excluding anyone implicated in acts of terrorism or dangerous criminal acts.

Concerning the judges' transfers, it was, as the minister said, normal and aimed at promoting some and warding off rumors about some others, pointing to the suspension of some judges who did not adhere to the requirements of the job and the judicial way of behavior stipulated in the judges' law.

Foreign Minister Cited on Talks in Brussels

LD2910221893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri visited Brussels, where he made a speech to the European Parliament. He also held talks with Belgian officials.

Mohamed Salah Dembri said in a statement that he discussed with members of the European Parliament political prospects and the economic situation in Algeria, in particular the matter of debts. In his statement he said the following:

[Begin Dembri recording] With regard to the question of the debts, I discussed with parliament and also with the Belgian Government the problem which, at present, is this: A possibility for a political or a technical solution concerning the proposals put forward by the international financial institutions including the IMF.

We presented Algeria's intentions because I believe in the coming weeks we are going to enter into negotiations. We have put forward an idea because Algeria's debts have something to do with relations with states. We asked for the possibility of having the government's debts wiped out.

In fact, there is a question mark about this. But I believe that if we examine the idea further, we might have an opportunity to reduce the burden of our debts. [end recording]

Egypt

Eight 'Vanguards' Defendants Sentenced to Death

NC3010103793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court has sentenced eight defendants in the first Vanguards of Conquest case to death. Fifty-five defendants were on trial in this case.

The Supreme Military Court passed life sentences on six defendants, 15-year prison terms with hard labor on 12 defendants; 15-year hard labor terms plus an additional five-year [without hard labor] prison term on two defendants; and 10-year terms with hard labor on six defendants. One defendant was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with hard labor. One defendant was sentenced to three years with hard labor and an additional three-year term. Two defendants were sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labor. One defendant was sentenced to three years with hard labor. One defendant's sentence was set aside because of his death. Fifteen defendants were acquitted.

Those sentenced to death in the Vanguards of Conquest Case number 1 are: 'Abd-al-Hamid Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid; Fathi Imam 'Abd-al-Hamid Hazin; Khuwaylid Muhammad Barakat 'Abd al-'Alim; Muhammad 'Abdallah Muhammad al-Sayyid; Yasir Kamil 'Ali, currently a fugitive; Ra'fat Mahmud Muhammad 'Uthman; Muhammad Husam Ahmad al-Sharif; and Muhammad Zayn, also a fugitive.

The following are the names of those sentenced to life:

'Imad 'Ali Muhammad Mahmud, Hasan Muhammad Ibrahim Hasan, Khalid 'Abd-al-Fattah Hasan Mustafa, Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad Mutawalli, Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad Thabit, and Muhammad Mustafa Sa'id Ahmad (fugitive).

The following were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment at hard labor:

Muhammad Samir al-Sayyid Darwish, Tariq 'Abd-al-Fattah Ahmad Ibrahim, 'Amr Mustafa Mahmud Ahmad, Yasir Mahmud Fahmi Ahmad Khayr-al-Din, 'Ali Hashim Muhammad 'Amarah, Ahmad Mukhtar (fugitive), Muhsin 'Ali Mursi Shihatah, 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Abd-al-Ghaffar Mursi, 'Adil 'Ali 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Hadi, Murjan Mustafa Salim (fugitive), Sayyid Ahmad Hasan 'Abd-al-Hamid, and 'Adil 'Awad (fugitive)

The following two individuals were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment at hard labor plus five years regular imprisonment:

Khalifah 'Abd-al-'Azim 'Abd-al-'Aziz and Majdi Muhammad Muhammad Salim.

The following were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment at hard labor:

Muhammad Mahmud Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Qadir, Khalid Shihatah 'Abd-al-Halim, Sayyid Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad, Sharif Mahmud Hasan Hammudah, Ahmad Shawqi Thabit 'Abd-al-'Al, and Muhammad Ahmad Khayri Ma'mun al-Marsafi.

The court sentenced Ayman Hasan 'Abd-al-Halim to seven years imprisonment at hard labor, and Ibrahim Zayn-al-'Abidayn Mahmud Talkhan and Ahmad Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hafiz to five years imprisonment at hard labor.

It also sentenced Yahya Ibrahim Khalafallah Muhammad 'Ali to three years imprisonment at hard labor plus three years of regular imprisonment, and Mahmud 'Abd-al-Sami' to three years imprisonment.

The court acquitted the following:

Husayn Taha 'Umar 'Afifi, Ahmad Mahmud Muhammad Qanawi, Rabi' Ahmad Rikabi Ahmad, Rashid 'Abd-al-Sami' 'Ali [surname indistinct], Yasir Muhammad al-Ma'mun 'Uthman, Hazim Muhammad Nur al-Din Hafiz Wahdan, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Jamal al-Din, Nizar Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hamid, Lu'ay Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hamid Ghurab, Abu-al-Futuh 'Abd-al- Basit Abu-al-Futuh, Muhammad Jalal Ahmad, and 'Abd-al-Raziq Mustafa 'Abd-al-Raziq.

The court ruled that the case against defendant Nazih Nushi Rashid be terminated because of his death. [passage omitted]

Sentences in Second 'Vanguards' Case

NC3110111693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court today passed a sentence of 15 years hard labor on the first defendant in the second Vanguards of Conquest Case involving 66 defendants, 15 of whom are still at large.

The court passed a sentence of 10-years hard labor on the second defendant and an 8-year prison sentence on the third.

The court also passed a 6-year prison sentence on one defendant, 5-year prison sentences on 11 defendants, 3-year prison sentences on 29 defendants, and acquitted 22 others.

The Supreme Military Court sentenced the first defendant in the case, Isma'il Sulayman Nasr-al- Din, to 15 years hard labor. It sentenced the second defendant Rabi' Muhammad Muhammad Ahmad Nafi' to 10 years hard labor and the third defendant Shihtah Ahmad al-Sayyid Mahjub to five years in prison, three of them at hard labor.

The court sentenced defendant Ayman Ahmad Muhammad Muhammad Salim to six years in prison, including three years at hard labor.

The court also gave 5-year prison sentences to 11 suspects, three of whom are at large. They are al-Sayyid Ahmad Imam al-Hajjar, Taha Khalifah Taha Tulbah, Ahmad Sa'd 'Abd-al-Muhsin, Ashraf Muhammad Jawdah, al-Hasani Sulayman Madbali, Ahmad Sa'id Abu-Sari' Ahmad, Muhammad Qutb Muhammad 'Ali, Isma'il Duha Muhammad al-Shahri, 'Id Ibrahim Bakri (fugitive), 'Abdallah al-Sayyid Hasan Khalil (fugitive), and Majdi 'Abd-al-Maqsud (fugitive).

The court gave three-year prison terms to 29 defendants, including nine fugitives. Those who were present:

Hasan Muhammad Husayn Muhammad, Nasir 'Abd-al-Halim Ahmad 'Ali, Subhi Muhammad Muhammad al-Muzayyin, Sayyid Ahmad Hasan Abu-'Ali, 'Adil Muhammad Ahmad, Sami Salamah 'Abd-al-Mu'min Sulayman, Khalid 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Atris, Husam-al-Din Muhammad Hasan 'Abdallah, Rida Mughanni Muhammad Imam al-'Azmah, Sha'ban Salih Sulayman al-Hajjar, Ibrahim Mahmud Muhammad Muhammad 'Abduh, Ahmad Salah al-Din Hanafi Mustafa, Mahmud Muhammad 'Ali Isma'il, Salah Muhammad Muhammad Shinan, 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Nabi Isma'il al-Khuli, Muhammad al-Sayyid Hasan Khalil, Mahmud Ahmad Muhammad Hasanayn, 'Abd-al-Hafiz Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hafiz, Midhat Mutawalli Safwat, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahmi 'Abbas al-Sayyid.

Those sentenced in absentia are: Tariq al-Fahl, Sa'id Salah, Ayman 'Abd-al-Raziq, Mahmud Mustafa, Muhammad Muhammad Hasan Ibrahim, Ashraf al-Shahri, Zayn-al-Din 'Abbas, 'Imad-al-Din Fikri, and Muhammad 'Ali Khalil.

The court acquitted 22 defendants, including three fugitives. They are: Muhammad Husayn Muhammad 'Amir Salim, Husam Muhammad Muhammad Hasan, Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Ati Muhammad, Husayn 'Abd-al- Muttalib Husayn Ibrahim, 'Atif Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Ati Ibrahim, Muhammad 'Awad Khalil Ahmad, Husayn 'Ali Mustafa Mahmud, Ibrahim 'Awwad Ahmad Khamis, Subhi Ahmad Mansur, Muhammad 'Abidayn Husayn Qanawi, Najm-al-Din Sha'ban 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Nabil Na'im 'Abd-al-Fattah, Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad al-Sayyid, Muhammad 'Abduh Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mu'ti, Sabri Yusuf Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim, 'Isam Mahmud Sha'ban Husayn, Nasir 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan 'Ali, Mahmud Fathi Ahmad al-Dahshan, Badri 'Abd-al-Halim 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah, al-Sayyid al-Shahri (fugitive), Muhammad Fawzi (fugitive), and Musaylihi Hamdi Musaylihi (fugitive)

Sentences in Fourth Case

NC3010140693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court today sentenced two defendants in the fourth Vanguards of Conquest case to five years in prison and 15 defendants to three-year jail terms. It acquitted 37 others. [passage omitted]

Those sentenced to five years' imprisonment are:

Naji Muhammad Yunus al-Khuli, who is a fugitive, and Mahmud 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-al-'Aynayn, also at large.

Those sentenced to three years are:

Samir al-Sayyid Muhammad Rayhan, Muhammad 'Abdallah Muhammad Hasan, Yasin 'Abd-al-Sattar Yasin, Baha'-al-Din Muhammad Mahmud, Ra'fat Mutawalli Sharaf-al-Din, Salah Musaylih Salim al-Dib, Muhammad Ibrahim al-Hadin, Ihab 'Abd-al-Maqsud, Husayn Muhammad Isma'il Salih, 'Abd-al-Karim Hasan 'Ali, Mahir Mahmud Darwish, Najib al-Sayyid Ibrahim, Sa'id Shawqi Muhammad, Muhammad Muhammad Ahmad al-Hamasani, and Muhammad Muhammad al-Disawi.

The court acquitted the following individuals: Muhammad 'Abbas al-Laythi, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Aru, Ahmad Muhammad Mahmud Abu-Khadr, Salamah Ibrahim Hamid, Ma'adh Hasan Mas'ud, Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad al-Sayyid Hijazi, Tariq Mas'ud 'Ali Mas'ud, Jamal Muhammad Abu-Zayd Sulayman, 'Abd-al-Fattah Kamal Muhammad Shihatah, 'Amr 'Ali Muhammad al-Rami, Islam Rajab 'Abd-al-Hadi, Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim Hijazi, Muhammad Sa'id Ibrahim Sha'ban, Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Ati Muhammad Ibrahim, 'Id Ramadan 'Id Ahmad Qasim, Muhammad 'Amr Muntasir Ibrahim, Muhammad Abu-al-Fadl 'Abd-al-Salam, Khalifah Abu-Zayd Shabib, Tariq Mutawalli Ahmad al-Tukhi, Muhammad Ahmad Muhammad Saraya, Mahmud 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Abu-Ahmad, Hasan Muhammad 'Ali Rajab, Ahmad Muhammad Nasr Muhammad, Muhammad Amin Hamid Rawwas, Ihab Kamal 'Abd-al-Maqsud al-Sayyad, Khalid Muhammad Shihatah Muhammad Abu-'Awf, Hamdi Hasan Darwish Mustafa, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Mahmud Abu-Hamad, Sayyid 'Abd-al-Mu'min 'Abd-al-Mu'min Mahmud, Muhammad Kamal Muhammad Mursi Hajjaj, Rajab 'Abd-al- Rahman Ahmad Rajab, Ibrahim Ibrahim Badr 'Ali 'Awwad, Badr Ibrahim Hasan Dayf, Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi Muhammad Husayn, Hamid Sulayman Muhammad al-Mallah, Yasir Hajjaj Muhammad Hajjaj, and Ashraf 'Abd-al-Hamid Nassar.

The Military Prosecutor had indicted the defendants on charges of joining an unconstitutionally established group.

seeking to change the system of government by force, and using terrorism to further this aim.

Jihad Group Issues Fatwa Against Eight Judges

NC0111141593 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 1 (AFP)—The group that assassinated Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat has ordered its followers to kill eight judges who have sentenced Islamic militants to death.

The Jihad said its "judicial committee issued a fatwa," or religious decree, ruling that eight military judges were apostates for sentencing 38 militants to death, according to a statement obtained by AFP on Monday.

"Any Muslim who kills these criminals will receive retribution from God," said the statement signed by the "Egyptian information bureau" of the Jama'at al-Jihad (Holy War Group). "All those who cooperated with these apostates in their crimes deserve the same punishment."

The group said the eight judges who "held trials in contradiction with" Islamic law were: General Muhammad 'Abdallah, General Muhammad Wajdi al-La'thi, General 'Imad 'Abdallah, General 'Ali Kamal Hamzah, General 'Abd-al-Ghafur Hilal, General Faysal Haybah, Colonel Shamal Ramzi, and Lieutenant-Colonel Mahmud Sultan.

President Husni Mubarak late last year ordered trials of Muslim militants to be switched from civilian to the tougher military courts, in a bid to stop a 20-month wave of militant violence that has killed more than 200 people.

The Jihad group assassinated al-Sadat in October 1981 for his peace treaty with Israel.

'Islamic Group' Claims Police General Killing

NC3010201593 Paris AFP in English 1853 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, Oct 28 (AFP)—A militant underground group, Jamaa Islamiyya, claimed responsibility Saturday for killing a police general, a police officer and a passerby in two attacks last week.

In a statement obtained by AFP, Jamaa Islamiyya (Islamic Group) said the murder Wednesday of General Mahmud al-Dib, chief police investigator in southern Qina province and Tuesday's killing of Lieutenant-Colonel Abu-Bakr Salim in nearby Abu Tij were the work of its "armed forces."

Al-Dib's killers wounded two policemen accompanying him, along with three passersby, one of whom later died of her wounds.

The murders were carried out as Egyptian President Husni Mubarak "pretended in America and France that security reigns in Egypt and the extremists have been wiped out," the Jamaa statement said.

"Security will never reign in Egypt until the shari'ah (Islamic holy law) enters the statute books and Mubarak's junta persists" in governing, it added. [passage omitted]

Mubarak's "fascist regime" was continuing to follow the path of repression, torture and military trials," Jamaa said.

The military trials were slated as contrary to international law by a U.S.-based human rights group in October.

Official figures indicate 66 policemen have been killed since Islamic organisations started their violent campaign in March last year.

Plainclothes Policeman Killed in Asyut Area

NC3010213693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2058 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Assistant Constable Zaghlul Ishaq Hunayn, a plainclothes policeman working with the al-Qusiyah Police Department, was shot dead by unidentified assailants tonight. The shooting took place close to Hunayn's house in Umm al-Qusur village, situated near Manfalut in Asyut Governorate, according to an Interior Ministry source. The source said that police are searching for the perpetrators, forensic experts are examining the scene of the shooting, and the Prosecution Office is investigating the case.

Second Plainclothes Officer Killed

NC0111150893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1407 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, a plainclothes noncommissioned officer of al-Badari Police Station in Asyut Governorate, Upper Egypt, was killed when unidentified gunmen shot him as he was heading to his workplace this morning. The assailants managed to escape to a nearby garden area.

Announcing this, a responsible security source at the Interior Ministry said Asyut Security Directorate, Public Security, State Security detective, and Criminal Laboratory officials immediately went to the scene of the incident to investigate.

The Security agencies are currently combing the area in search of the culprits and the weapons used in the attack.

Patrol Shoots, Wounds Citizen in Asyut

NC3110130993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1157 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 31 Oct (MENA)—A citizen was hit by a bullet in Asyut City today because he failed to comply with instructions from a guard patrol.

Husam-al-Din Muhammad Abu-al-Sa'ud was walking on Muhammad Tawfiq Khashabah Street in Asyut when he refused to comply with orders as a guard patrol became suspicious of him. He was taken to Asyut University Hospital for treatment while public prosecution investigates the incident.

Wanted 'Terrorist' Captured in Asyut

NC3110141993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—The security services in Asyut have arrested a terrorist named Yasir Mansur al-Sadiq, who has been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in criminal case no. 6, Qina, 1993. He was arrested during a wide-scale security sweep that was carried out today by forces from the Central Security Department, the Criminal Investigations Department, and the State Security Investigations Department. During this operation, the security forces combed the sugar cane plantations in Asyut.

This was reported by a responsible security source in the Interior Ministry. The source said that information has been received that some terrorists suspected of assassinating Brigadier General Mahmud al-Dib are hiding in the area. The police identified one of them as Yasir Mansur al-Sadiq. When the police force stormed the hideout in the sugar cane plantation, the accused opened fire. An exchange of fire ensued during which the accused was hit by a bullet in the chest and was captured. The accused was moved to the hospital for treatment under heavy guard.

'Fugitive Terrorist' Shot Dead in Asyut

NC3110175193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 oct (MENA)—Terrorist Husam al-Din Muhammad Abu-al-Sa'ud was killed today in the city of Asyut.

An official Interior Ministry security source told us this. The source said that a mobile patrol under the command of First Lieutenant Muhammad Nushi Abu-'Abbas became suspicious of the young man when he tried to escape inside a building under construction on 26 July Street in Asyut.

The source said that when the force approached the terrorist he fired several shots. The force was then compelled to deal with him, and he was shot in the head. He was taken to hospital where he died of his wounds.

The force seized a Russian-made 7.62-mm pistol with an empty magazine and one live bullet.

Leaders of Asyut Security Directorate, State Security Investigation, Public Security, and various investigation agencies moved to the scene to inspect the body. It was identified as the body of fugitive terrorist Husam-al-Din-Muhammad Abu-al-Sau'd.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi ordered a reward of 1000 Egyptian pounds be given the officer and 200 pounds for each soldier in the unit.

Security Forces Arrest 112 Students for Sit-In

NC3010141993 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 13

[Report by 'Ala' Riyad and Nasir Juwaydah from Alexandria]

[Text] Security forces from Alexandria Security Directorate yesterday morning stormed the university's new housing compound for students in Smuhah, at the orders of the Sidi Jabir Chief Prosecutor, to break the sit-in organized inside the compound and arrest the organizers.

Approximately 96 students, whose request to reside in the university dormitory had been denied for failure to meet the necessary requirements for residence, have since the beginning of the academic year been trying to influence the university administration to comply with their request and incite their colleagues. The day before yesterday, they broke into the university's housing compound, agitated their fellow students, and organized a sit-in inside the compound. Dr. Sa'd al-Khawaliqah and Dr. Ibrahim 'Ubaydu, deputy presidents of Alexandria University, tried in vain for three hours to persuade them to leave the compound. The sit-in organizers prevented students from leaving the compound to go to their classes.

After a complaint was made to the police station, the prosecutor's office issued a warrant for the arrest of the students organizing the sit-in. Acting on the prosecutor's orders, the security forces broke into the compound and arrested 112 students. They were referred to the public prosecutor for questioning.

Mubarak Ends Visits to U.S., France, Syria

Returns to Cairo from Syria

NC3010165993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned home this evening after an 8-day tour which took him to the United States, France, and Syria.

Mubarak: Tour 'Fruitful' for Peace

NC0111083393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that his visits to Washington, Paris, and Latakia achieved positive and fruitful results for the peace process and promoting it on every track and for other issues, including Egypt's relations with the states he visited.

In a statement published in the weekly newspaper MAYU today, President Mubarak said he discussed with U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Francois Mitterrand all the issues pertaining to the peace process, including the need for the thorough implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and for the transfer of authority to the Palestinians without delay and as soon as possible. He said he also discussed with Clinton and Mitterrand the need to push forward the peace process on the other tracks, especially the Syrian-Israeli track, on the basis of respect for UN resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

President Mubarak said Presidents Clinton and Mitterrand showed clear understanding of his viewpoint that there should be a just and comprehensive peace so that the peoples of the region can devote themselves to development and discard violence.

On Cairo's relations with Washington and Paris, President Mubarak said he discussed various political, economic, technical, and military issues, especially free trade between Egypt and the United States and increasing Egyptian exports to the United States and Europe. Mubarak said U.S. and French officials have praised Egypt's economic reform program, which has reduced the trade deficit, controlled inflation, and stabilized the Egyptian pound. He said this was clear from the remarks of the U.S. commerce secretary, the World Bank president, and the IMF chairman, who will visit Cairo shortly. This is also clear in that for the first time Egypt is not seeking foreign loans.

President Mubarak said every economic reform program has its side effects. But Egypt's program has very limited problems compared with other states.

On his visit to Latakia, President Mubarak said he briefed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on his talks in Washington and Paris and on the developments in the peace process. He added that he and al-Asad reviewed all the possibilities of the situation, the steps that can be taken, and bilateral relations, which are being strengthened in the various fields.

On the press bill in Egypt, President Mubarak again stressed that the government has nothing to do with this bill, whether directly or indirectly. He said: I affirm that the government will not submit to the constitutional establishments any changes or amendments to the current press law. I care greatly for the freedom of the press and I reject any restrictions that threaten or limit freedom of expression and opinion.

Mubarak Cited on Fundamentalism

NC3110122193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1111 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Paris, 31 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that no decision can be made in the Middle East without Egypt. He said: Unless Egypt gets assistance from the international community, we cannot perform our positive role for peace in the Middle East.

The French newspaper LE MONDE interviewed President Husni Mubarak during his visit to France. The interview was published today.

The newspaper says that Egypt did not hesitate to help achieve a comprehensive peace in the region because it considers itself the motivator of diplomacy in the Middle East more than at any time before and as a necessary mediator between the West and the Arab world. Therefore, the paper adds, many Egyptians, foremost of whom is President Mubarak, are convinced that this international activity deserves political and material support.

President Mubarak warned in his interview against comparing the situation in Egypt to that of Algeria and affirmed that the economic, political, and social conditions in Egypt are different from those of any other country. He remarked that the extremists have not achieved any noticeable success in the elections in Egypt.

LE MONDE described President Mubarak as tough, strong, and self-confident. It cited Mubarak's statement that the killing of three foreigners in a Cairo hotel was carried out by a mentally disturbed man who has no connection with any radical Islamic group.

The paper also cited the president as saying that fundamentalism in Egypt is not a problem and that the violence caused by religious fundamentalism is the work of a small minority whose influence is very limited on the vast moderate masses, because they grew up on genuine Islamic practices.

The president said that he is convinced that the goal of extremism in Egypt has developed in recent years according to the world phenomenon and as a result of funds from abroad.

He added that there is an Islamic movement in Egypt that prefers political struggle over violence and that this movement has entered certain social institutions. Also, there are fundamentalists sympathizing with the Muslim Brotherhood, who won the election through national vocational organizations in such fields as medicine, engineering, and law.

The president noted that winning such elections are not difficult when the electorate participating does not exceed 10 percent. Therefore, he said, we decided to change the law to impose at least a 50-percent participation rate in these elections to enable the majority to express its view.

Mubarak pointed out that the formation of political parties based on religion should not be allowed. He said that he advised the Algerian and Jordanian leaders on this matter, but that they did not follow his advice. The Tunisian regime did follow his advice, he said.

Paper Praises Mubarak Talks With Syrian Leader

NC3110075893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0609 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper considers the Egyptian-Syrian summit held yesterday between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad as a new step on a long and arduous path to win the battle of peace. The summit, the paper adds, is also a required effort to correct the course of actions aimed at rescuing peace and to foil the plots of forces hostile to the Arab nation whose interest lies in the continuation of conflict in this vital region.

In its editorial today, the paper says that President Mubarak's brief working visit to Syria and his talks with President al-Asad are of the utmost importance as the "progress on the Syrian front" was one of the main topics in Mubarak's talks in the United States and France.

The paper notes that President Mubarak spoke during this tour with full Arab authorization to save the deadlocked peace talks in the Middle East. The paper describes President Mubarak as a tough warrior for the sake of peace, noting the president's efforts to make the peace process a success.

Musa on Syrian-Israeli Talks, U.S. Position

NC3010202793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Hamdi Jawhar, carried within "The Talking Newspaper" program; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Jawhar] There are reports that whereas President Husni Mubarak stressed the importance of speedy moves on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track, the United States wished that this be postponed...

[Musa, interrupting] [Word indistinct] this is not accurate. We are talking about the need to activate and accelerate the resumption of the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. The Israeli prime minister says he cannot digest two agreements at the same time, which could be understood as a call for postponement. We say no; there can be no postponement. We even do not believe that the Israelis are really asking for this, nor the Americans. We are talking about a few weeks. The Americans are also talking about a similar period, more or less. But the Americans have never said that they wanted to postpone [word indistinct]. This is not true.

[Jawhar] But the gap is still wide between Israel and Syria.

[Musa] I cannot say that the gap is wide. This gap is related to one point: The Syrians are saying everything for everything; that is, all elements for all elements within the equation of land for peace. This is the point on which the negotiations are being held. There is no doubt that we, like the Syrians, believe that there should be a full withdrawal. There is absolutely no doubt about this. What should be given in return for the comprehensive peace? The Israelis are insisting on full peace; that is, the opening of embassies, and so on. This is the remaining point.

[Jawhar] Mr. Minister, what do you think of Syria's insistence on concluding a joint Syrian-Lebanese peace treaty with Israel? What is Egypt's position? Do you support this.

[Musa] This trend is not specific; I do not know this at all. Every Arab agreement [with Israel] will ultimately add to the others...

[Jawhar, interrupting] I mean that Syria and Lebanon will sign two agreements with Israel at the same time.

[Musa] There is no objection to this. If the Lebanese, the Syrians, and the Israelis accept this, then it is all right.

Musa on Somalia, Peace, Mediterranean Seminar

NC3110162493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that a seminar for a number of senior officials from Egypt, Tunisia, France, Spain, and Italy will be held in Cairo in November to discuss cooperation among the Mediterranean countries.

In statements today, Musa said Egypt will resume contacts at the African level to follow the problem of Somalia within the framework of the African summit decision.

He said President Mubarak, the OAU chairman, and Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi, who is entrusted to discuss the Somali issue, will hold contacts to find a solution to the Somali problem.

On the situation in the Middle East, Musa said Egypt will hold contacts within the current peace process.

He said the region will witness swift diplomatic moves by Egypt to advance the peace process on two main tracks: First, to ensure good implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and second, to advance the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in cooperation with the concerned parties.

Musa: Lebanon's Hizballah No Obstacle to Peace

NC3010080593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the Lebanese-Israeli track was one of the major issues discussed during President Husni Mubarak's talks with U.S. and French officials. He added that Hizballah is not an obstacle to peace.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Musa said that President Mubarak is not bringing any initiative to the Syrian president to bring the Syrian and Israeli views closer because we do not want to go into details.

He added: The signing of a Syrian-Israeli agreement is not just wishful thinking on our part; it is very serious. We have expressed hope that this will happen soon, and it might happen within one month or possibly in less than five months. Musa said that he will discuss these issues with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Musa denied reports that the Western countries want to separate the Lebanese track from the Syrian one.

Opposition Party Condemns U.S. Role in Somalia

NC3110175993 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 1, 8

[Text] The National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] party secretariat general issued a statement at its meeting last Saturday in which it expressed concern with the continued bloodshed in Somalia as a result of the U.S. role.

It also expressed concern at Washington's attempts to push regional or local parties into assuming its role and implementing its plans instead of international legitimacy's resolutions.

The statement called on the Egyptian Government to abide by the noble aims that dictated the international intervention—humanitarian aid to the Somali people—by facilitating the internal dialogue there and the delivery of aid and by working to spare the Horn of Africa the destructive consequences of the blatant U.S. intervention, which is a repeat of what they did in the Gulf under Egyptian cover.

The statement adds that the NPUG believes that activating Egypt's role in the OAU and the Arab League and respecting the responsibilities of Ethiopia and Eritrea are the correct way to help the Somali people, while maintaining the existing fraternal and historic relations between the Egyptian and Somali peoples and achieving a real and independent national and regional solution.

The statement says that the NPUG appeals to the Arab League and the OAU to quickly play the role given them by the Security Council and which the Somali people themselves expect of them, since this role is in line with the two organizations' role in implementing the principles of Arab-African cooperation.

The party also appealed to the political leaderships of the fraternal Somali people to abide by the spirit of conciliation and Somali unity, which is deep-rooted in the history of the Somali people, and not to give outside forces an opportunity to exploit their personal struggles and divisions in order to crush the Somali people's hopes of restoring their unity and managing their own affairs.

Columnist Urges U.S. to Finish Task in Somalia

NC3110173293 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p 8

["Closeup" Column: "America's Role Is Required" by Salamah Ahmad Salamah]

[Text] Is it any good for the U.S. and European forces operating under the UN banner to withdraw from Somalia now and leave the task to African, Arab, and Islamic forces? It seems that this is indeed what the UN secretary general is seeking to do, particularly after President Clinton—under pressure from Congress—expressed his desire and made a pledge to withdraw the U.S. forces in March; and after that signs appeared that several European countries, including Germany, Italy, and France, are preparing to withdraw.

However, we doubt very much that the African countries will succeed where the big powers failed. What we fear most is that the African countries may indeed find themselves, even with the help and supervision of the United Nations, in an unenviable situation and that fanatical African sentiments might kindle a civil war in Somalia.

The current perilous situation in Somalia has revealed the immense confusion in the relationship between the United States and the United Nations. The multiple decision-making centers have contributed to exacerbating rather than helping to solve the Somali problem. From the outset, the United States refused to place its forces under UN command. Most of the initiatives to confront the resistance by Aidid and his supporters were purely American. However, the change that occurred in the U.S. stand and the lessons learned from the Somali crisis now require the United States to continue its role in genuine coordination with the United Nations, the OAU, and the Arab League. These organizations can play a role in reaching a political solution to the problem and achieving national reconciliation among the rival Somali factions.

Thus, the March date set by Clinton for withdrawing the U.S. forces seems unrealistic and impractical, particularly if the European countries follow suit. It is unreasonable to think that the problems in Somalia can be resolved and the situation calmed in this short period. Certain experts believe that the relative calm currently prevailing in Somalia may be meant to precipitate the withdrawal of U.S. and European forces so the conflict can be stirred up anew. This means that the U.S. role in Somalia is still required, and it would be difficult for other parties to fill the vacuum after all that has happened. The United States started the task and it is dutybound not give it up half way.

AL-AHRAM: Democracy Used as Excuse To Intervene

NC3010193393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 8

["Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Haiti: Why?"]

[Text] Just because the United States is interested in the situation in Haiti, the media, including Egyptian media, has been showering us day and night with reports on the deteriorating situation in that remote and small Caribbean country. The people watch on television the story of the struggle between the army and the elected president and how the United Nations, at the instructions of the United States, has imposed sanctions and set a specific deadline by which the military rulers must leave power and President Aristide return to the country. Naturally, all this was done in the name of defending democracy!!

When the military in Haiti were reluctant to leave, the United States imposed a naval blockade on the country, in which France and Canada are participating. The crisis is not over yet. U.S.-backed President Aristide is residing in Washington, waiting to assume power with the help of U.S. troops.

The problem of democracy in the so-called new world order has become an excuse that the major states now use to justify their political and military intervention and in the meantime to prompt the UN to issue resolutions giving legitimacy to this intervention. It is an arbitrary logic that, in most cases, is connected to economic interests or that seeks to impose a political or military influence, one in which democracy is nothing but a bright facade covering much behind it.

A close examination of what has happened in Haiti reveals that this small island, whose population does not exceed 4 million, had been ruled for 29 years by the dictatorial regime of tyrant Duvalier and his family. Under Duvalier, the country was a fertile ground for U.S. influence and the activity of U.S. corporations and monopolies, which spoiled political life there and encouraged a military coup two years ago to oust the Duvalier regime. As expected, the military refused to leave power.

What happened in Haiti is being repeated, one way or the other, in many other world countries. It happened before in Angola, where the United States supported the "UNITA" [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] movement, which is acting against democracy now. It is happening now in Burundi, a former Belgian colony; in Zaire, where the West backed President Mobutu and covered up his crimes; in Liberia, etc. There is a pattern of despotic regimes created and encouraged by the West, which uses "democracy" to get rid of them when they are of no use.

This means that the West's motives in propagating or defending "democracy" are not free of ambitions and designs. It also means that what we see in front of us are nothing but games in an international circus, and we hope that we will not become mere puppets pulled by strings on the circus stage!!

MENA Reports on Iranian Atomic Bomb Program

NC2910145593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (MENA)—Iraqi press reports today say that the Turkish authorities have seized 2.5 kg of enriched uranium intended to be smuggled into Iran. This proves that Iran has resumed its efforts to build an atomic bomb.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH, which specializes in military affairs, says that with the help of Indian experts Iran has recently built a nuclear complex that produces enriched uranium. The paper adds that Tehran has recruited over 20 atomic scientists from former Yugoslavia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. Each scientist is being paid over $2,000 monthly in addition to other incentives.

The newspaper stresses that China has contributed effectively to setting up and running some nuclear installations of 1,000-megawatt capacity for the Iranian regime.

On the other hand, AL-QADISIYAH reports that Iran now possesses a huge air force because of the aircraft it recently received from the former Soviet republics.

Iraqi Housing Minister Arrives for Meeting

NC0111064293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2312 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Iraqi Housing Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad, accompanied by a delegation, arrived in Cairo tonight to attend the meetings of the 11th session of the Arab Housing and Reconstruction Council, which will begin Tuesday [2 November] at the Arab League headquarters.

He was received on arrival by Housing and Utilities Minister Engineer Salah Hasaballah and Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League.

Minister: Image Improves After 'Fierce' Campaign

NC3110094593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0759 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Minister of Tourism Mamduh al-Biltaji has affirmed that Egypt's image has improved noticeably in the past few months after a fierce campaign from some world news media.

He said that THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER mentioned in a recent article that Egypt does not deserve to be described as a country in which violence is directed against tourists and that Egypt is still safe and tourists can walk in its streets day and night without fear.

He added that THE NEW YORK TIMES affirmed that the Americans who work in Egypt feel safer than in a California city. THE WASHINGTON TIMES also affirmed that tourists continue to go to Egypt, which enjoys calm.

Referring to British newspapers' reporting on the situation in Egypt, he said THE DAILY TELEGRAPH cited (Ken Evans), one of the passengers of a tour bus that was attacked a few months ago, as praising the tour guide and the driver, and the good treatment of tourists in Egypt.

He added that he advises everyone he knows to visit Egypt and enjoy seeing its great historical sites and the hospitality of its generous people. [passage omitted]

The tourism minister said German Television's Channel Two aired a program on tourism in Egypt followed by interviews with German officials at the Information Bureau in Bonn, who expressed admiration of Egypt and its civilization. [passage omitted]

Libya

JANA Editor on Morocco-Israel Ties

LD3010190793 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1803 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Oct (JANA)— The REUTER news agency has reported that a Moroccan economic delegation arrived yesterday in occupied Palestine. The agency said that the delegation included Andre Azoulay, personal adviser to King Hassan II of Morocco.

The JANA Arab affairs editor has commented on this, saying: This visit is considered a violation of and an encroachment on the Arab League's decisions in connection with the embargo against the Zionist enemy. The JANA Arab affairs editor emphasized that the reasons for this embargo still exist, and there is no reason to violate them.

A source at the General People's Committee of Unity has announced that the Great Jamahiriyah has requested the convening of an extraordinary session of the Arab League council to discuss ways of preventing the collapse of the Arab stance and the breaking up of its consensus before the vicious onslaught aimed at the Arab nation. It also invited the Arab League member countries to adhere to the spirit and letter of the league's Charter and the decisions adopted within the context of the league, including the decisions of the Arab embargo on the Zionist enemy.

The source stated that the contacts and meetings that are taking place with the Zionist enemy are an infringement of the Arab covenants and decisions and that they will weaken the Arab stance even further.

JANA Editor Reviews Need To Reform UN

LD3110232293 Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, al-Timur 31 [31 Oct], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA's editor for international affairs wrote the following commentary: The U.N 48th anniversary was marked few days ago at a time questions are being asked about the use and fate of this organisation having become, through the Security Council which is controlled by the hostile major powers, "a sword directed at the necks of smaller nations" and an instrument for intervention blockade and waging wars against other peoples.

The leader of the revolution was at the forefront in warning at this state the U.N and its serious effects on member states especially the smaller nations amongst them. He called for the rectification of this situation so as to reflect genuinely the its [as received] charter or there will be no choice for smaller nations but to withdraw from and set up a real organisation which may indeed serve justice, equality and international peace and security.

On the 34th anniversary of the U.N the leader of the revolution announced in the presence of the ambassadors whose countries were all members of the U.N that what we call the United Nations at present is in fact an organisation of non united governments.

In a letter on that occasion to the U.N secretary general, the leader stressed the need for a revision of the U.N enabling conform to its charter providing for equality of members at all organs of organisation especially the security council and the granting of permanent membership to some countries so that all countries will be equal in their votes and membership at the security council.

In his letter, the leader of the revolution drew attention to the concern of the smaller nations about the dictatorship exercised at the council by the permanent members who are colonial countries and enjoy the veto power.

Also in a letter to the world leaders on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the U.N in 1985, the leader of the revolution asserted "the time has come to transfer the U.N Headquarters to a country which is really able to fulfil its international obligations as a host state for the organisation and if no such action was taken the U.N. will collapse like the League of Nations before resulting in the withdrawal of states from it and the Jamahiriyah will be the first to do so.

He made clear that the host state should be smaller and neutral country which has no intentions of domination and no political problems with others.

The leader of the revolution reiterated this view to the 2nd conference of the International [word indistinct] during the month of March 1986 [as received] stressing the need to revising the U.N and its system and institutions as it became an organisation of united governments against smaller nations.

He pointed out that the peoples who represent the majority reject domination and arrogance and will resist until they triumph.

He said that if they wanted the Security Council to be an organ of the five permanent members the latter should set up their council and object to each other as they may wish but the peoples who paid the price of the two world wars then in the so called cold war, considering that they are the victims, have the right to lay down safeguards for international peace.

In his speech to the 9th summit conference of the Non Aligned Movement in Belgrade in 1989, the leader stressed the necessity to abolish the veto power. He recalled the draft resolution presented by the delegation of the Great Jamahiriyah to the summit of the movement held in Colombo in 1976 and the decision taken by that summit considering the use of veto by the permanent powers as an obstacle to the peoples who under colonial rule and domination to exercise their right to self-determination and independence and that the current circumstances require a revision of the U.N. Charter and that the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security falls on all member states.

During his analysis of the current serious international situation when he met with the students and lecturers of the faculty of economics and political sciences on 31st Al-Kanun [December] 1992, the leader of the revolution pointed out that the U.N was at a cross roads it either should be a real United Nations in which all peoples are equal or this organisation will be over and we will be the first to raise the flag of the end and contempt for the U.N. It is not possible to accept the turning of this organisation into a knife for threatening slaughtering us for they are seeking to make the U.N as sword put at our neck .

If the U.N from now on is going to be used by the states in accordance with its charter ending tyranny and the veto power at the Security Council is revised making it fair and the U.N reliable so states may resort to it to settle disputes and prevent any acts of aggression by the mighty against the weak, the U.N can be associated with and payments of membership may be effected and states can resort to it and rely upon it. However, if the U.N deviation continues and the stronger continue to exploit it keeping peoples unequal before it and the veto power remains as it is, we would say that the U.N cannot survive and peoples will not stay as members and at the forefront the Libyan people who will fight strongly to leave this organisation and work for others to do likewise hence the U.N will disappear and those who led to this fate should be held responsible.

During his meeting with the pupils of the secondary schools in al-Nawwar [February] 1993, the leader of the revolution asserted that the whole Arab nation fell under the terror of the U.N as the latter became like a sword pointing at our neck while the Security Council is protecting the Zionists.

He said that colonialism used to decide then colonial governments executed directly their schemes but now they started to pass all the resolutions they want through the Security Council. The leader added that the Western countries use all forms of pressures to implement Security Council resolutions when they directed against Arab countries but these same Western countries ignore the resolutions against the Zionist enemy and disregard the Security Council and Resolution 425 which requires the Zionists to withdraw from south Lebanon within 24 hours but the Zionists did not comply until now is a case in point. [passage omitted]

Army Chief Meets Chadian Labor Minister

LD3110222793 Tripoli JANA in English 1743 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Timur 31, Jamahiryah News Agency—Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir this afternoon met with Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, the Chadian minister for public employment and labour, and the delegation in his company who are at present on a visit to the Great Jamahiryah.

The Chadian minister delivered a letter to Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir for the leader of the revolution from the Chadian President Idriss Deby asserting the support and solidarity of the Chadian people with the Great Jamahiryah in the face of the imperialist atempts aimed at undermining the dignity and freedom freedom of the Libyan Arab people.

Also the letter expresses the Chadian people's appreciation for prominent role played by the leader of the revolution towards the consolidation of peace and national unity in Chad. The letter stresses the consolidation and strengthening of fraternal ties between the Libyan Arab people and the people of Chad.

Present at the meeting were the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity and the Chadian ambassador to the Great Jamahiryah.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Appoints Cabinet, Reforms Ministries

EA3110153093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The Presidency of the Republic has issued a statement covering the new federal ministerial set-up. Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, issued republican decrees appointing ministers of education and scientific research; culture and information; and finance. The president of the Republic confirmed all state governors in their state posts pending a report to be submitted by the committee on the redivision of states. Here is a recording of the statement.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] The president of the Republic, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has issued a number of republican decrees which merged the ministries of higher education and scientific research and the Ministry of Education into one ministry to be called the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. This measure was necessitated by the continuing review of the functions of the federal ministerial structures and the developments occurring in the Ministry of Education. Federal development has delegated the supervision of general education to the ministries of education in the states and confined the federal Ministry of Education to planning and general policies.

At the level of higher education, each of the new universities has its own act and its independent council and thus the ministry will confine itself to planning, policies, and support which will ensure a quantitative leap and establish higher education on the principles and values of our society. Accordingly, the ministry in its new form will assume the tasks of planning and policies for education at its different levels in accordance with a coordinated vision and harmonious principles. It will foster scientific research, develop its methods, support its bases, and employ it in the service of society and humanity.

The republican decrees which have been issued appoint the federal ministers whose names follow:
1. Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar, minister of education and scientific research;
2. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information;
3. Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad, minister of finance.

The federal ministers, led by the president of the republic in his capacity as head of the executive authority, are as follows:
Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic;
Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, his deputy;
Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, minister of presidential affairs;
Maj. Gen. Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman Ali, minister of defense;
Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, minister of foreign affairs;
Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, minister of interior;
Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad, minister of finance;
'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, minister of justice and attorney general;
'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information;
Maj. Gen. Dominic Kassiano, minister of labor and administrative reform;
Gen. Ibrahim Nayil Idam, minister of communications and tourism;
Navy-Brig. Salah al-din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, minister of energy and mining;
Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar, minister of education and scientific research;
Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, minister of social planning;
Professor Ahmad Ali Qunayf, minister of agriculture, natural resources and animal wealth;

Lt. Col. Galwak Deng Garang, minister of health;
Dr. Ya'qub Abu Shura Musa, minister of irrigation;
Dr. Ibrahim Ubaydullah, minister of economic planning and investment;
'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif, minister of transport;
Dr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa Abd al-Salam, minister of industry and trade;
Abdullah Deng Nhial, minister of peace and rehabilitation;
Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister at the bureau of federal government;

The decrees issued also appoint:
Engineer-Brig. Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, secretary general of the Presidency of the Republic;
Col. Bakri Hasan Salih and Lt. Col. Ibrahim Shams al-Din, advisers to the president of the Republic.

Meanwhile the president of the Republic confirmed all the governors at their posts pending a report from the committee concerned with the redivision of states. This will result in discussion of its proposals or the issuing of constitutional or republican decrees for the implementation of the committee's recommendations, which might require the introduction of essential changes in the states and their government. May God give us support. [end recording]

Al-Bashir Addresses New Cabinet, Cites Changes

EA3110191593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1618 31 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Oct (SUNA)—President General 'Umar al-Bashir urged the new Council of Ministers to exert more efforts to implement programmes of the comprehensive national strategy which he described as an example for establishing economy and social construction for the Third World.

The recent ministerial changes were a stance towards upgrading work and performance, and work under the national salvation revolution was regarded as assignment and sacrifice, he said.

Addressing the first meeting of the new cabinet, President al-Bashir stressed the importance of making efforts for cementing federal government, mandating more powers to states and implementing the comprehensive national strategy programme in all fields.

He asked the newly appointed minister to resolve citizens problems, adopt shura (consultations) and pay attention to coordination between the various ministries.

On the other hand, Cabinet Affairs Minister Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz presented a report on the achievements in the basic year of the national strategy by the federal ministries.

President Lifts Curfew in Khartoum State

EA3110175093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Communique issued by the Central Military Zone; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Proceeding from the gracious instructions issued by his excellency the president of the Republic during his address to the nation at the Transitional National Assembly on 25 October; God having graced our country with security and stability after it had been swept by the tempests of chaos and anarchy until the restoration of security with the coming of the salvation revolution, which, with God's help, restored security, confidence, and discipline to the Sudanese streets; with the citizens safe in their homes and confident that the honor of their women will be preserved, able to sleep safe and sound after having had to be apprehensive and vigilant against those out to terrorize both adults and children; and in gratitude to God for the care he has taken of us; it has been decided to lift the curfew throughout Khartoum State with effect from today, Sunday, 31 October. [passage omitted]

Minister Heads Meeting on Lifting of Curfew

EA2910224893 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Security bodies have held an expanded meeting at the Interior Ministry under the chairmanship of Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, minister of the interior. During the meeting, necessary measures were drawn up for lifting the curfew on a specified date.

The minister met with leaders from the federal police and the Khartoum state police, with the aim of making any necessary arrangements for plugging any gaps that might result from the lifting of the curfew. The interior minister stated that several popular and official quarters had contacted his ministry following the decision to lift the curfew, expressing their fear of negative effects that might occur after the implementation of the decision. He affirmed that the Interior Ministry would work to plug all the gaps, and called on citizens to carry identity cards or proof of identification, particularly during the evening, in order to contain crime and achieve security and stability.

Finance Minister on Economic Liberalization

EA3110204093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1616 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 31 Oct (SUNA)—The newly appointed minister of finance, Abdullahi Hasan Ahmad, affirmed on Sunday [31 October] continuation of the economic liberalisation policy which was set up by the three-year economic salvation programme.

He explained that the liberalisation policy was not a policy of a certain minister but an obligatory policy for all governmental bodies.

The minister added that President General al-Bashir's address before the parliament last week confirmed (full) commitment to liberalisation policy. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said To Request Sudan Drop Islamic Trend

NC3110163893 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah]

[Text] A ranking Sudanese official, who preferred to remain anonymous, has told AL-SHA'B that the U.S. Administration has repeatedly asked Sudan to end what it called the trouble that the Islamic trend is causing to the salvation government and the repercussions of this trend on the African region.

The official said that Sudan's rejection of this request has prompted the United States to include Sudan on the list of states sponsoring terrorism. He noted that this request is one of three submitted by the United States in return for removing Sudan's name from the list.

As for the other two requests, the Sudanese official said that the U.S. Administration has asked Sudanese officials to stop the military campaign currently being undertaken by the army and popular defense volunteers to liberate southern towns from the rebels. This U.S. request was triggered when U.S. officials realized that this campaign has attained most of its objectives, harmed their interests in the region, and is about to regain the remaining southern towns bordering on Uganda.

As for the third request, which was indirectly submitted, the Sudanese official said that the United States had asked Sudan to support the ongoing negotiations process between the Arabs and the Zionists and to reestablish relations with Israel, as many Arabs will countries do.

It is worth noting that the talks between Sudanese and U.S. officials always dealt with Sudan's Islamic trend.

British Official Denies 'Terrorism Camps'

EA0111123593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Nov (SUNA)—Director of the Far and Middle East Department at the British Foreign Office has announced that the American decision to enlist Sudan among the countries allegedly sponsoring terrorism worried Britain, which did not adopt the same laws by which Washington determined terrorist countries. "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" daily newspaper of today mentioned that the British official has mentioned that they knew very well that there are no terrorism camps in Sudan.

UN Spokesman Praises Sudan's Stand on Somalia

EA2710190493 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] (?Faruq Molloy), official spokesman of the United Nations in Somalia, has described the statement of the Sudanese Government denying that it supported Major General Mohamed Farah Aidid's faction as a positive step worthy of praise and appreciation. This step is consistent with the general effort to bring closer together the viewpoints of the various factions, and it is supportive of the efforts directed toward bringing about a just solution to the Somali issue.

During a meeting with the Sudanese radio correspondent in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, (Molloy) said it was pointless to make accusations and referred to the support Sudan continues to provide, which he also lauded, to its Somali brothers in all fields. He spoke of the international organization's appreciation of the positive role performed by Sudan to render successful the Addis Ababa conference, which had brought all the Somali factions together last March. (Molloy) stressed the need to return to dialogue—particularly between the UN forces and those of the Somali National Alliance led by Maj. Gen. Aidid—pointing out in this respect that the aims of the UN Operation in Somalia were principally to bring about national reconciliation, promote relief operations, and to maintain security.

Asked about the deviation of the international organization from those aims, the UN spokesman said that successive events, and particularly those following that of 5 June in which 26 Pakistani soldiers were killed, resulted in the UN command being prompted to reinforce itself in defense in excess of the forces which it had at its disposal at the beginning.

Ethiopia Concerned Over Militia Deployment

PM2910153693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Oct 93 p 1

['Umar Muhammad al-Hasan report: "Ethiopian Concern Over Sudanese Militias' Deployment in Border City"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum—AL-HAYAH has learned that the Ethiopian Government has expressed its concern to Khartoum over the deployment of Popular Defense Forces—militias sponsored by the government—in the al-Damazin area along the border with Ethiopia.

Sources have said that two senior Sudanese officials reassured Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin about this matter in talks they held with him during a visit he paid to Khartoum last week. During the visit he conveyed a message to President Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir said to be relating to efforts to solve the Somali crisis.

The sources pointed out that Khartoum is preparing to hold a huge celebration in al-Damazin on 16 November to mark the occasion of the graduation of a new group of Popular Defense Forces recruits totaling 50,000 trainees. It is not clear whether Khartoum is going to change the celebration's venue to reassure Ethiopian authorities. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Sends Message to Omani Sultan

EA2810170793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, has received a written message from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the republic. It concerns relations between Sudan and the sultanate of Oman and issues of common interest. This was stated during Sultan Qabus's meeting in Muscat with Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the acting foreign minister, in the presence of Mr. Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. During the meeting, Dr. Abu Salih gave a full explanation of the situation in Sudan and the recent constitutional steps within the framework of handing over power to the people. The meeting also dealt with the current Arab situation, and Sudan's efforts to heal Arab divisions.

Kuwait

Bush Assassination Attempt Verdict Postponed

LD3010094693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 30 Oct (KUNA)—The State Security Court in Kuwait today postponed until 25 December the announcement of verdicts regarding the terrorist network that attempted to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait. State Security Court President Salah al-Fahd said that this important case requires careful deliberations so that a just verdict may be passed.

Al-Fahd added that the case consists of 1,700 papers, and needs time in order to determine the positions of the defendants. He said that the court will not be considering the nationalities of the defendants, and added that the latter are in safe hands. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Officials' Resignations Urged

LD3110165593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait, 31 October—Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah has stressed that the recommendations made by the National Assembly at a session during which security conditions in the country were discussed were behind a decision to ask a number of the ministry's senior commanders to submit their resignation.

In his reply to a question asked by National Assembly Deputy Mishari al-'Usaymi, a copy of which was obtained by KUNA, Minister al-Hamud added: In response to the assembly's recommendation, the ministry decided to change some senior commanders who had completed over 32 years of service, including the nominal period.

Deputy al-'Usaymi had submitted a question on 13 September asking about the measures taken and pretexts under which an official of the Interior Ministry had summoned a number of officers, some with the rank of colonel, and told them verbally to submit their resignation in writing. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Economic Boycott of Israel 'Tightened'

NC0111115293 Paris AFP in English 1046 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 1 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has tightened an economic boycott of Israel despite reported Western pressure and a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process.

A circular by the UAE's Israeli-boycott office asked public and private institutions on Sunday to ensure they have a certificate of origin and shipping documents showing neither the shipment nor the vessel are linked to Israel.

The circular, addressing both national and foreign banks and institutions on Sunday, said the certificates of origin for any imported products must be ratified by the chamber in the exporting country and the UAE or any other Arab diplomatic mission there.

"The shipment certificate must include the phrase 'the vessel is not banned from entering Arab ports for any reason,'" the circular said. "Bidders for contracts in the UAE must also state in their tenders that they are aware of the rules governing imports to the country."

Boycott officials said Sunday's circular was a stricter version of the 1980 boycott law.

The circular came amid growing speculation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states might ease indirect sanctions against Israel following its landmark autonomy agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in September.

Israel has sought help from its ally the United States and other western countries to press Arabs to remove the ban, which has cost it nearly 50 billion dollars since it was enforced a few years after Israel was created in 1948.

"There could be a gradual easing of the indirect boycott if Israel proved its good intentions in the autonomy agreement and towards other parties in the peace process," a Gulf boycott official told AFP.

"But the direct ban is up to the Arab League. It was a collective decision and can be lifted only through a collective decision. I do not think Gulf states will break the consensus under pressure from any party."

The direct boycott covers a ban on dealing directly with Israel while indirect sanctions prohibit dealings with any foreign firm with links to the Jewish state and bar ships which use Israeli ports from entering Arab harbours as well as the import of any publications related to Israel.

The secretary general of the GCC, which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE, this week dashed hopes for an early end of the Arab boycott of Israel.

"We should not rush for ending the boycott because no progress has been made on other peace tracks," Shaykh Fahim bin-Sultan al-Qasimi said.

Yemen

Statement Issued on Attack on al-Bid's Sons

JN2910182793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] A responsible Interior Ministry source has stated the following to the SABA' news agency:

At 0140 today, Friday, 29 October 1993, the sons of brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central committee, Nayif and Yanuf, who were accompanied by brother al-Bid's nephew Kamil

Muhammad al-Hamid, were the target of a treacherous assassination attempt. The latter was killed while Nayif and Yanuf were not hurt.

Preliminary reports mention that the incident was carried out by several unidentified armed individuals who opened heavy fire on the sons of brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his nephew when they came out of a house in al-Mansurah in the Aden governorate, where martyr Kamil lived. This shows that the perpetrators of this odious crime had planned for it and had watched and followed the sons of brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his nephew in order to pinpoint their whereabouts.

The source explained that two cars, a Cressida and a Hilux, were seen near the scene of the crime. Several cars were impounded and an investigation of several suspects is under way. The source said the interior minister has formed a committee to investigate the incident under brother Colonel Rashid Dirhum, under secretary at the Aden interior ministry's branch, with members from the political security, homicide department, and public prosecution.

The source affirmed that the public security organizations will continue their efforts to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice. He called on all citizens to be alert and cautious and cooperate with public security organizations to find the perpetrators, and all those who threaten security and stability in the homeland.

Concluding his statement, the source conveyed the condolences of the brother interior minister and the ministry employees to the great struggler brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and the family of martyr Kamil Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Hamid, who was killed in the incident, asking God almighty to give him rest in peace and to grant his family solace and patience. From God we come and to him we return.

Coalition Condemns 'Odious Incident'

JN3110095593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Yadumi, official spokesman for the coalition government command, has stated the following:

The coalition command met this evening, and reflected on the painful incident, the odious incident, and the villainous crime targetting the sons of brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, which resulted in the death of his nephew Kamil al-Hamid.

The coalition command announces to the sons of our people that it condemns this incident and that it rejects and denounces all forms of violence. It offers sincerest condolences to brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid on the martyrdom of late Kamil al-Hamid, and thanks God for the safety of his sons.

The coalition command emphasizes that security has become a major concern in our people's daily life. The people, government, Armed Forces, and public security forces should safeguard it, end all that undermines this security, strike with an iron fist all those who tamper with our country's stability and security, and expeditiously bring those who will be arrested to trial. The coalition command will continue its meetings to discuss the issues listed on its agenda.

YSP President Predicts Unrest

NC2910184293 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Manama, Oct 29 (AFP)—Unrest could spread in Yemen after the murder of a relative of vice president and opposition leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a top official in al-Bid's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) said Friday.

Yasin Nu'man, the YSP president, told AFP the murder was politically-motivated and that the "laxness" of the security forces "could allow the unrest to spread."

Two of al-Bid's sons narrowly escaped injury in Friday's attack in which Kamal 'Abd-al-Hamad was hit by more than 30 bullets.

Police said al-Bid's sons Nayif and Yanuf al-Bid dived for cover behind a parked car and escaped unhurt. They said later that a number of suspects had been arrested.

Nu'man, interviewed by telephone from Bahrain, called for a security clampdown on politically-motivated attacks and said many perpetrators of such attacks had been allowed to go free.

At least 10 YSP officials have been killed in political attacks since the unification in 1990 of North and South Yemen. The Marxist YSP was the predominant party in the poorer south prior to unification. [passage omitted]

'Text' of YSP Statement

JN2910190093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Oct 93

["Text" of statement by the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau on "the attempt on the lives of the two sons of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council," in Sanaa on 29 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]:

Yesterday evening, Thursday, 28 October 1993, civil pilot Nayif 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and university student Yanuf 'Ali Salim al-Bid, were exposed to a spiteful assassination attempt while they were leaving the house of the sister of brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and YSP Central Committee secretary general, in the Rimi quarter in al-Mansurah in the trade and economic capital, Aden. The moment they left the house, extensive fire was opened on them. This led to the martyrdom of university student Kamil Muhammad Talib al-Hamid, the son of brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid's sister, who was bidding them farewell at the house's door.

The YSP Political Bureau denounces this cowardly barbaric action and appeals to all honest sons of the homeland to resolutely confront the conspiracies of the contractors [muqawili] of murder and terrorism who aim to disturb security and stability, involving the country in the furnace of bloody and devastating violence, and aborting the march of unity and democracy.

Our YSP was always the main target of the acts of terrorism the country witnessed throughout the previous transition stage, and that targeted its leaders, cadres, partisans, and party centers with assassinations, explosions, and armed attacks. Facts proved that the acts of terrorism our country witnessed during the previous transition stage were perpetrated by the enemies of unity and democracy. These acts are part of a carefully studied plan to produce crises that aim to abort unity and democracy. Our party raised its voice high during the previous stage against the acts of terrorism that stormed the country, and put the issue of security, the arrest of criminals who perpetrated crimes of assassination, robbery, plundering, and explosions, and the issue of trying them, at the top of the 18 points the YSP Political Bureau has presented to tackle the current political crisis.

Our party is confident that the criminal act against brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid's two sons, that claimed the life of his sister's son, marks the beginning of a new stage in the course of the plan which is aimed at escalating crises instead of security and stability, at spreading terrorism instead of democracy, encouraging internecine fighting instead of accord, and fragmenting ranks instead of fostering unity.

While denouncing this spiteful act, the YSP appeals to all the masses of our people and their national forces and honest sons, to resolutely and firmly confront all those who tamper with the security of the homeland and citizens, who take killing and terrorism as a profession, and who, through their despicable acts, seek to take revenge on unity and democracy.

Issued by the YSP Political Bureau, Sanaa, Friday, 14 Jumada al-Awwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 29 October 1993

Congress Party Condemns Attempt

JN2910204993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The General Committee of the General People's Congress issued the following statement this evening:

The General Committee of the General People's Congress received the news about the sinful assassination attempt on Thursday night in Aden against the two sons of brother struggler 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party. The attempt resulted in the martyrdom of the late Kamil Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Hamid.

While the General Committee offers its condolences to brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of Presidential Council and secretary general of the Socialist Party, and the deceased's family, it condemns this incident [words indistinct] their punishment for what their sinful hands did.

The General Committee also calls for quickly informing the public of all conclusions that are reached.

The General Committee renews its condemnation of anything that incites fear and cause bloodshed, and urges all the homeland's sons to be vigilant and not to offer the chance for the homeland's enemies to undermine our people's gains represented in unity and democracy. The General Committee emphasizes that it will adopt a firm stance in support of legitimacy's establishments in chasing the criminal and treacherous hands, whoever they might be, and to put an end to the attempts to undermine the security and stability of the country.

Reform Grouping on 'Odious' Bid

JN3110102693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Oct 93

["Text" of statement by the Yemeni Reform Grouping on the "odious assassination attempt on the lives of the two sons of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council" in Sanaa—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If anyone slew a person—unless it be for murder or spreading mischief in the land—it would be as if he slew the whole people. [Koranic verse]

During these difficult circumstances our country experiences, and while the forces of good seriously seek to mend the rift and unite national ranks, the Supreme Council of the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] received the news of the crime that led to the death of brother Kamil Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Hamid, nephew of brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

While expressing its sincere condolences to brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and all the members of his family, the YRG Supreme Council condemns these treacherous methods with which the perpetrators seek to further divide the homeland, drag the country into a whirlpool of violence, and block the road to the good offices that are being exerted to overcome the current stage and avert its dangers.

The YRG condemns and denounces this lowly crime, which conflicts with the Yemeni people's beliefs, values, and ethics. The YRG appeals to the concerned public security agencies and authorities to carry out their duty, and perform their mission by arresting the perpetrators of the crime and bringing them to trial so that they can receive the just punishment they deserve and so that the people might know the motives and reasons that made them carry out their odious crime and expose the side that stands behind them.

The YRG also appeals to all our citizens to cooperate with the public security forces in their search for the criminals, and to confront such criminal actions, which harm the homeland's interest, security, and stability.

We ask God to protect our country and people from seditions, provide us with the requisites of security, and to have everyone work for what He wants and accepts. He is the one who listens and who responds to our demands.

Oman's Qabus Telephones Condolences

JN3110204893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, received a telephone call this evening from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. During the call, the Omani sultan extended his condolences and those of the fraternal Omani people to al-Bid on the martyrdom of his nephew, brother Kamil Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Hamid, beseeching almighty God to have mercy on him and to grant his family patience.

The Presidential Council vice chairman expressed his thanks and those of the martyr's family to His Majesty Sultan Qabus for contacting and extending condolences, wishing him good health and happiness.

YSP Spokesman Denies Report on al-Bid Remarks

JN0111160793 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] An official spokesman for the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] denied a statement broadcast by London Radio based on a report published in Cairo's AL-AHRAM newspaper. The statement cited 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and YSP secretary general, referring to the possibility of using force in Yemen.

The spokesman said that the London Radio correspondent's report was totally baseless, and openly conflicts with the contents of the statement [word indistinct] for unknown purposes.

The spokesman reiterated the determination of the YSP, led by vice president and the party's secretary general, to continue to adhere to the constants of unity, democracy, and social peace, and to oppose all forms of violence and fighting [word indistinct] the Constitution, law, and the legitimate establishments.

Prime Minister Views Issues Within Cabinet

NC3010184193 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 9

[Interview with Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Sanaa—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] I believe that the natural subject to start the dialogue with is how work is done within the Yemeni Cabinet, particularly since a third party, the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], has entered and is now represented in the government. The policies of this party may seem rather different.

[Al-'Attas] The government statement submitted to the House of Representatives outlines the common issues and grounds of the three coalition partners: The General People's Congress [GPC], the YRG, and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. I believe that the government statement covered a wide range of major issues agreed upon by the three coalition partners. If the government succeeds through the will of the coalition parties, these issues could represent a major step toward the implementation of the national action march in Yemen.

['Ajjaj] So there are no disagreements within the Cabinet over the various current issues as a result of the differences in ideology among the three coalition partners?

[Al-'Attas] No, there are varying views on some details and issues that are the subject of dialogue within the Cabinet as a whole or in some of its committees. But what I want to say is that the government has not yet started putting its statement into practice and, consequently, I cannot tell if there are or will be difficulties in implementing what has been agreed upon by the coalition partners in the government statement, which was drafted after long discussions. Tackling the major issues outlined in the statement, as agreed upon by the government members, will show if there are some differences, and if there are some, they will need to be settled through the agreement of the three coalition partners. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] Is this the reason why the government's promise to unify the Armed Forces and security forces within months has not been kept?

[Al-'Attas] Following the government statement, we made this issue one of our major tasks, set dates for discussing it in the Cabinet, and made a plan; and that was a good step. The Ministry of Defense compiled the necessary documents on the subject, including on partisan activity within the Armed Forces, the unification of the Armed Forces, the legal and organizational matters, etc. We set a date for a Cabinet meeting to discuss and endorse the issue, but the newly appointed chief of staff requested that the matter be deferred for further study before submitting it to the House of Representatives. This is the reason for the postponement, and we hope there will soon be a chance for the Cabinet to discuss the matter. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] As one of the YSP leaders, do you think that the YSP's desire for guarantees that it will remain part of the Government and not slip into the opposition is at the heart of the current economic crisis?

[Al-'Attas] This is not the case. The YSP wishes to establish a sound foundation for cooperation, one that enables the YSP and all the sides of the alliance, in and outside the Government, to have a say in the country's affairs within the democratic process. The YSP seeks to establish a state based on law and order in the country, one that embraces all Yemenis and stimulates them to work hard to achieve social and economic progress.

['Ajjaj] What are the points of difference between the YSP and the GPC concerning constitutional changes?

[Al-'Attas] There are some differences concerning the presidency and the relationship between the president and the vice president. We in the YSP raise this issue not because we want a vice president from the YSP, but because we want to draw up a constitution for the Republic of Yemen. Another difference concerns central administration and local government. We believe that, having endorsed the principle of administrative and financial decentralization, we should draw up a formula for local administration and government. This would enable a modern Yemeni state to exploit the potentials of all Yemenis and make them compete in their work instead of squabbling over side issues. This is one of the YSP's major objectives.

['Ajjaj] Do you believe that Yemeni unity is in danger? There have been serious signals pointing to renewed fragmentation. One came a few month ago when 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, chose to live in seclusion in Aden, declining to carry out his duties in Sanaa.

[Al-'Attas] Yemeni unity is safe and sound, for it is protected by our people. But this is no reason for us to be complacent. We cannot just say that our people have struggled and sacrificed for unity and therefore unity will endure. We have to work to establish the sound foundation for unity to last and for the country to advance. Our country is large in terms of its area, population, and needs. We have to make every citizen in this country feel that he has the same rights and responsibilities as everyone else and that he belongs. We have to stimulate each and everyone to take up his share in building the country. We have a duty to consolidate unity. Complacency and the old way of doing things could impede the country's revival. [passage omitted]

Coalition To Stop 'Irresponsible' Media Campaigns

JN2910184893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Yadumi, member of the Supreme Council of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, who is the official spokesman for the coalition government command, has made the following statement:

Based on the important role of the media and the national official, party, and private press in the march of national construction and in mobilizing national capabilities and efforts in the battle for building the new Yemen, and in light of the negative role recently played by some party and private newspapers by fostering confusion and differences in society in the framework of political differences between the parties, the command of the coalition government, which groups the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping, agreed at a meeting last night to force newspapers of the parties that form the coalition government and the newspapers that support them to stop all irresponsible media campaigns and all attempts to score points that harm national unity and efforts to achieve national construction.

He explained that this agreement will be the fruit of responsible dialogues taking place between coalition partners on current conditions in the homeland and the appropriate ways to deal with these conditions, saying this step will enhance the atmosphere of confidence and understanding between the coalition partners and their commands in a way that ensures joint action in a harmonious and unified team spirit, in order to shoulder national responsibilities and confront the issues and problems that concern the people and improve their standard of living.

He added that the coalition command has urged other party newspapers and the private newspapers to avoid harmful media attempts to score points and to shoulder their national responsibilities and carry their message to society by publishing the honorable national word, true facts and information, and practicing responsible and positive criticism that enriches democracy and entrenches the national unity of the people. [passage omitted]

Qatari Information Minister Arrives on Visit

JN3010125293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency Dr. Hamad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kuwari, minister of information and culture in fraternal Qatar, arrived in Sanaa this morning. He is leading a delegation on a visit to our country lasting several days. During the visit, he will hold talks with officials in the Ministry of Information. [passage omitted]

Meets Yemen Information Minister

JN3110200893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Excerpts] A session of official talks began at the Information Ministry today between our country and the sisterly State of Qatar. The talks were headed by Information Minister Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi and Qatari Information and Culture Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hamad al-Kuwari.

At the beginning of the session, the information minister welcomed Dr. Hamad al-Kuwari and the delegation accompanying him and thanked Dr. al-Kuwari for responding to an invitation to visit our country. Brother al-Lawzi expressed his strong belief that the visit would be a new effort to promote relations between the two sisterly countries in all areas of cooperation. He noted that his meeting with the delegation from the State of Qatar is an opportunity for exploring development in sisterly Qatar.

The information minister also praised the wise and official policies of the sisterly State of Qatar, including its bilateral and regional relations and its Arab and international policies, referring to the growing relations between our country and the sisterly State of Qatar. He voiced his hope that these relations would be a positive example for our Arab homeland, noting the need to continue to give this example of relations in various areas in light of our one doctrine, our geographic location, and the role of our media.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hamad al-Kuwari, information and culture minister of the sisterly State of Qatar, also delivered a speech in which he said: I thank you in my name and on behalf of the delegation accompanying me for inviting me to visit our second homeland, Yemen, which has deep roots in history and which enjoys a special place in every Arab's heart. We also thank you for your hospitality and warm reception, which we sensed from the first moment. This, however, is not strange, as you are the origin of the Arabs and the source of generosity. [passage omitted]

During the session, the two sides discussed the results of activating the media and cultural agreement, signed between the two countries in May 1990. They also agreed to form follow-up committees from both sides to activate the agreement, which calls for expanding the scope of media cooperation and coordination between the Yemeni and Qatari radio and television stations, between the two countries' news agencies, between the Khalifah institute and the radio and television training institute in Doha. They then discussed other media issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Received by President Salih

JN3110132393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received at his office today brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hamad al-Kuwari, minister of information and culture in the fraternal State of Qatar.

The Qatari minister relayed to the brother president the greetings of his brother Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, as well as his wishes of continued progress and prosperity for our people. The Qatari minister noted the strong ties between the peoples of the two fraternal countries.

For his part, the brother president expressed satisfaction with the current status of the fraternal bilateral ties. He reaffirmed our country's concern for promoting and enhancing these ties in the interest of the two fraternal peoples and our Arab and Islamic nation as well.

The brother president asked the Qatari minister to relay his greetings to his brother His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, as well as his wishes of continued progress and prosperity for the fraternal Qatari people.

The meeting was attended by Information Minister brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi.

Kurdish Paper: Saddam Suffering From Bronchitis

NC3010180493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, mouthpiece of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, reports today that rumors are circulating among Iraqi medical and scientific quarters that Saddam Husayn, head of the Iraqi regime, is suffering from bronchitis [al-nazlah al-shu'abiyah]. Citing reliable Iraqi opposition sources, the newspaper says Iraqi doctors have advised Saddam Husayn not to go outdoors, even for a few minutes. The doctors have also advised him to take complete rest as a precaution against this disease, which is common in Iraq. [passage omitted]

UN Official: No Banned Materials Found

JN3010163393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Nikita Smidovich, leader of the 63th team of UN experts, has announced that during a month-long mission in Iraq that ended today, his team did not find any material banned by the international organization's resolutions.

In a statement to reporters before leaving Baghdad for Manama, he said that in more than a month of searching, he did not find any banned materials.

The team, the largest since the 30-state aggression on Iraq, included 50 experts and began its mission on 20 September .

Turkey Urged To End Economic Embargo

JN3010135593 Baghdad INA in English 1308 GMT 30 Oct 93

Baghdad, Oct 30, INA—BABIL paper of Baghdad has urged the Turkish Government to adopt most conspicuous attitude toward the blockade imposed on Iraq to realise interests of both Iraq and Turkey.

A paper article today said that Turkey had largely been affected as a result of the blockade and whatever the financial assistance could be, would not compensate its continued losses resulting from the blockade.

The paper also called for putting an end to the foreign military presence in Turkey, because this would free the Turkish will and the formal and popular decisions from heavy restrictions.

Continuity of foreign military presence on the Turkish land to counter Iraq, means blocking Turkey's moves towards lifting the blockade, thus any Turkish formal intention in this regard will be met by undeclared interaction by the coalition forces for burying it in the bud, the paper said.

It concluded that day after day, economic and security burdens in Turkey are aggravating, affirming that the normal historical relationship between the two neighbours requires serious and sincere endeavor by the Turkish Government to break this inequitable blockade.

Vatican Envoy Supports Lifting Economic Sanctions

JN3010143093 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 30, INA—Bishop Marian Olish, the ambassador of Vatican to Iraq has lauded care and attention paid by President Saddam Husayin to the holy places, and efforts being exerted to reconstruct the worship houses.

The Vatican ambassador pointed out that Vatican was totally and absolutely rejecting the imposition of the economic sanctions on the Iraqi people, saying that we are seriously working for lifting them at the earliest possible time.

The sincere dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations will only realise lasting peace in the region, referring that his pontiff Pope John Paul II had sent personal letter to President Saddam Husayn and another one to former U.S. President George Bush for containing the crisis by diplomatic means for the peace, but regrettably the U.S.-dominated world media organs had camouflaged the good offices by the pope.

The ambassador described the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad on June, 27, last which claimed lives of civilians as an absolute criminal and painful act, emphasising that it heats the tension among the parties.

Pope John Paul II has slammed these regrettable acts which totalled 54 times from August 2, 1990 until Jan. 17, 1991 so as to defuse the spark of the war in the region, the ambassador said.

Rabin To Meet Clinton on U.S. Aid, Withdrawal

TA3110093493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Oct 93 p 7

[Report by Washington correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin moved up his visit to Washington in a bid to reach an understanding with U.S. President Bill Clinton about vast U.S. security aid, which would enable him to make a decision about a withdrawal in the Golan Heights and have it approved. This, on condition that Damascus accept Israel's demands with regard to the definition of peace.

Rabin, who will confer with Clinton on 12 November, will be taking to the White House a long list of Israeli demands to safeguard its security in the Golan Heights. It is assessed that approval of the Israeli demands will pave the way for a shuttle mission between Damascus and Jerusalem by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in a bid to attain an Israeli-Syrian agreement of principles toward early- or mid-1994.

Some of the requests included in the list had been shelved for a long time, such as Israel's full strategic integration in the most advanced detection, control, and early warning intelligence systems, and the purchase of modern weapons. [passage omitted]

[A report by Pe'erli Shahar and Pinhas 'Inbari on pages 1 and 8 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 31 October adds: "The paper has learned from political sources in Jerusalem that U.S. President Bill Clinton may summon a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as early as mid-November if progress is made in the secret contacts between the sides."

[The report goes on to note that "Israel and Syria have been holding secret contacts on the professional level, both in the Middle East and in Washington, with regard to the security arrangements."]

Bet El Settler's Death Provokes Rioting

Settler Kidnapped in Ramallah

TA2910132893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The security forces this afternoon conducted searches in the Ramallah area, after a Bet El settler was stabbed and kidnapped there this morning. The initial report on the incident came from a shop owner on the Ramallah-Bet El road. He said that a Bet El settler who came to buy eggs in his shop was attacked by three masked men, stabbed, and kidnapped. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a large pool of blood and a yarmulke were discovered in the place. The kidnappers made their escape in the victim's vehicle, an ivory-colored Peugeot 305 with a license plate numbered 2600882. Large forces participated in the searches, aided by helicopters.

Body of Slain Settler Found

TA3010091193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] About an hour ago, the security forces found the body of Hayim Mizrahi, the Bet El settler who was stabbed and abducted from a poultry farm near Bet El yesterday. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that his Peugeot was found near the village of Surda, some 5 km north of Ramallah on the way to Bi'r Zayt. The car was totally burned, and the body was found in it. A forensic laboratory mobile unit, a pathologist, and police investigators from the Judaea District were summoned to the scene. The three masked men who murdered the settler took away his weapon, an Uzi submachine gun. Our correspondent notes that his car was actually found only a few km from the scene of the abduction and the murder.

Settlers Torch Cars, Building

TA2910152793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The reports on the kidnapping of the Israeli settler brought about reactions of rage in local settlements. Dozens of Bet El residents and residents from other settlements blocked traffic on the main road leading to Ramallah and torched at least two Arab-owned vehicles. They also burned a building in the al-Jalazun refugee camp. The police detained six rioting settlers from Psagot.

Police Minister Blames Hamas

TA3010112593

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el and Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew on 30 October carry various reactions to the murder of a Bet El settler who was stabbed and abducted on 29 October, both before and after the news that his body was found.

At 0900 GMT, IDF Radio carries an interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal "recorded a few minutes ago." After recounting the circumstances of the murder, Shahal says: "We know who the perpetrators are. We believe they were members of groups belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] who want to create the feeling of unceasing attacks and to undermine stability. It should be clear that the security forces will not just look for, but also capture the perpetrators; I have no doubt about that. I would like to say to the Palestinians that such events will not affect the activities of our security forces. We will continue to capture terrorists and bring them to trial. Let them not entertain any illusions about our determination to deal with any terrorist with the utmost severity and tenacity."

The police minister goes on to say: "It is our basic assumption that during the autonomy period the Palestinians must see to it that such actions do not recur. Had we not made such an assumption, we would not have reached an arrangement. If the self-government authority fails to gain control over the territory and the people that will be its problem, seeing that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will always retain the right to return to the area, including to Gaza and Jericho, to safeguard the well-being of Israeli settlers. The Palestinians must prove that they do not just talk well, they must act in the field. They must exercise their presence and bring all those elements under control. In my opinion, this is the key and most basic test they must pass."

Qol Yisra'el at 0600 GMT reports: "The National Religious Party says the endless painful events in the territories are the inevitable outcome of a ruinous combination: a good-for-nothing government and a crusade against the settlers."

"MK Shlomo Benizri, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] faction chairman, says the closure should be reimposed and the gestures, especially the release of prisoners, should stop at once."

Qol Yisra'el at 0800 GMT adds: "Moledet's Rehav'am Ze'evi is calling on the prime minister to halt the return of Hamas deportees at once. Hamas' involvement in the ongoing murders is absolutely clear, and it would be foolish to increase its ranks by allowing the deportees to return.

"Tzomet's MK's Refa'el Eytan and Moshe Peled say the fact that Israel is hiding behind the PLO's back misleads the public."

At 1000 GMT, Qol Yisra'el adds: "A statement released by Labor expresses deep shock at the abduction and murder of Hayim Mizrahi. Israel will go on relentlessly fighting the terrorists, the enemies of peace, and will not allow them to destroy the chances of attaining peace in the region.

"The Likud says the prime minister's insistence on going ahead with the release of terrorists while Israelis are being murdered illustrates the vast gap between Rabin's sensitivity to the Arabs' demands and his imperviousness to the feelings of Jews.

"Minister Shulamit Aloni says Meretz expects 'Arafat and his men to openly and vocally come out against terror and to call on the Palestinians to be alert and work toward preventing acts of terror. Mrs. Aloni told our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal that Israel is having a hard time coming to terms with abductions and murders at this time, and the Palestinians should know that."

Hamas Claims Responsibility

TA3010161493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has taken responsibility for the murder of Hayim Mizrahi from Bet El. A Hamas spokesman relayed the message over the phone to an international television network.

Settlers Stage 'Widespread' Protests

TA3110071293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Jewish settlers in Samaria this morning blocked roads in continuation of their protests over the murder of Bet El resident Hayim Mizrahi. Last night thousands of Jewish residents blocked roads throughout the West Bank and stoned Arab vehicles. [passage omitted] Mark Weiss reports:

The Nabulus-Qalqilyah road was blocked by settlers this morning who prevented Arab vehicles passing. At a number of points, there were confrontations between settlers and troops. Ten settlers were detained during the widespread protest throughout the West Bank last night. The settlers burned tires, closed off roads, and at a number of junctions, stoned Arab vehicles.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that soldiers will not permit illegal protests and will ensure that roads remain open with free passage to all vehicles. Police and soldiers deployed outside many settlements to divert Arab motorists.

The head of Army Central Command, Major General Nehemya Tamari, permitted residents of Bet El to hold a protest vigil at the site where Hayim Mizrahi was murdered five miles north of Ramallah. [passage omitted]

Several demonstrations against Prime Minister Rabin's handling of terrorism also took place in Israel last night. In Qiryat Shemona, a Palestinian flag was waved during a speech Rabin gave in support of Mayor Prosper 'Azran's candidacy for reelection. The flag waver was arrested and removed from the auditorium. Hundreds of Qiryat Shemona residents backing 'Azran and Rabin filled the room. Outside, hundreds of Golan residents demonstrated against the government's policies.

Protesters also gathered last night outside the premier's home in Tel Aviv and official residence in Jerusalem. About 150 members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza burned a tire and blocked the road opposite Rabin's home in Neve Avivim. Several dozen demonstrators also gathered outside the official residence in Jerusalem. Some were members of the Organization of Victims of Arab Terror. Police dispersed them. Protesters were arrested in both incidents.

Rabin, Peres on Settler's Death

TA3110072293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the enemies and protesters of the Israel-PLO agreement are trying to sabotage it. Rabin says amid the agreement, Palestinian enemies opposed to the accord with Israel are killing Jews just because they are Jews, and the Jews who are against it, are setting fire to Arab cars just because they are Arabs.

Speaking at the opening of the second Jerusalem Conference on Business, Rabin added that it's imperative to stand steadfastly against both and overcome them. The prime minister also said the majority of people are in favor of the agreement.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 31 October reports that speaking with a Qol Yisra'el reporter "this morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel should demand that the PLO condemn the acts of Hamas

[Islamic Resistance Movement] and terrorism in general, although we must not delude ourselves that Hamas will obey the PLO.

["Minister Peres rejected the right wing's charges that the government has abandoned the settlers. He noted that terrorist attacks had been perpetrated even before the negotiations, and what he termed hermetic security had not existed in those days either. The government will protect every settler and settlement. It does not disclaim responsibility, but it will not allow others to take the law into their hands, Shim'on Peres said."]

Opposition Reacts to Rabin Remarks

TA3110152493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 31 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The opposition has reacted angrily to statements by Prime Minister Rabin in which he criticized both Israelis and the Palestinians for indiscriminate attacks. Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu termed the statements a scandal and an unacceptable comparison. In a radio interview, Netanyahu called on Rabin to resign if he was unable to defend Jewish life. However, the Likud leader called on the settlers to act within the law.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan says the prime minister has lost his senses and is no longer aware of what he is doing.

Prime Minister Rabin this morning briefed the cabinet on the murder of Hayim Mizrahi by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists and on the violent reactions of the settlers. The prime minister roundly condemned Hamas but also criticized the settlers. Jack Katzenell reports:

Prime Minister Rabin, in his capacity as defense minister, briefed the cabinet on the murder of Hayim Mizrahi and on the settlers' demonstrations. Nobody from the prime minister downward described the two categories of action as equivalent. Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein, for example, said the prime minister neither said this or implied it in his statement yesterday. [passage omitted]

Among the cabinet ministers, the most critical of the settlers was Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am. He described the settlers' action as a rebellion aimed at thwarting the peace process.

Perhaps the most sympathetic to the settlers was Economic Planning Minister Me'ir Shetrit. He said it was high time the PLO condemned the acts of the Hamas terrorists as it had promised to do in the agreement with Israel. [passage omitted]

Before the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Rabin had a meeting with the Israeli delegation to the Taba negotiations, headed by General Shahaq. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal raised the question of whether the electricity in the Gaza Strip would be supplied by Israel or generated locally.

The cabinet also took its leave of the attorney general, Yosef Harish, who is retiring today. Tomorrow a new attorney general—Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir—will take office.

[A similar report by Udi Segal on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 31 October adds that "the prime minister concurred with Minister Rubinstein's suggestion that anyone perpetrating a violent terrorist act after the Washington agreement was signed would not be eligible for any arrangement or reduction of punishment."

[The report further states that "following a briefing in the cabinet meeting, ministers said that no prisoners were due to be released in the near future."

[Segal adds that at Rabin's meeting with the Taba negotiators, "the Palestinian proposals regarding the future police force were discussed. Minister Shahal estimated that the Palestinian police under autonomy will be eventually 10,000 strong."]

Rabin Comments on Criticism

TA3110200293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reacted tonight to the criticism leveled at him for his remarks following Friday's [29 October] murder of a Jewish settler. Rabin said, and I quote: Arab opponents of the peace accord murdered a Jewish resident of Bet El because he was a Jew, and Jewish opponents later rioted and burned Arab cars because they belong to Arabs. Mr. Rabin said the settler's murder and the rioting settlers are two separate issues, and that matters cannot reach the point where a leaflet can be published calling for his murder. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik arrived back in the studio a few minutes ago after interviewing the prime minister. Sukenik first asked Mr. Rabin to clarify his remarks of last night about the opponents to the peace on both sides.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I would like to reiterate what I have already said. I said that there are enemies of peace and opponents of peace. The enemies of peace are Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and the Palestinian rejectionist front, which murder Jews in order to create an atmosphere opposed to the peace process among Israelis.

On the other hand, there are Israeli opponents of the peace who do not hesitate to call me a traitor. Yesterday in Or 'Aqiva, a slogan was printed saying Rabin should be killed. They riot against Arabs only because they are Arabs. These are obviously two different things. It is clear that murder is not the same as rioting, but it is also clear that Hamas' desire to murder Jews is to achieve precisely the result on the Israeli side that those who exploit that despicable murder to oppose peace have exhibited.

[Sukenik] As prime minister and defense minister, can you provide the settlers with the security they deserve in the situation that has been created?

[Rabin] I believe the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is doing everything it can to provide security. Were there no murders prior to the recently signed agreements? Were there no attacks against the Israeli civilian population in the territories? I am pleased that seven months of closure of the territories have significantly reduced attacks on

Israelis inside Israel, including united Jerusalem. We have beefed up the IDF in the territories. Since the closure, more soldiers than settlers have been killed. The soldiers were under orders to defend the Jewish residents of the territories and to maintain law and order. Is the IDF not trying, is it not paying with the blood of its soldiers to assure the safety of the Jewish settlers and settlements in the territories? At the same time, I want the Jewish settlers to recognize the fact that we are facing a difficult situation and that they also have to contribute to the effort and not go and buy cheap eggs [a reference to the murdered settler who went to a shop to buy eggs].

[Sukenik] Are you demanding that the PLO denounce terrorism as well, and perhaps also take measures to help maintain security?

[Rabin] I did not demand that. The PLO has denounced terrorism. Will it denounce it each time? For me, the key to our relations with the PLO is first and foremost a halt to terrorism by that organization. Since 13 September, there has not been a single terrorist attack—as far as the Shin Bet, the IDF, and all the security organs know—perpetrated by the PLO. It is possible that the lives of Israelis—both civilians and soldiers—have thereby been saved. I am interested in the PLO halting terrorism, and in holding negotiations to translate the accords into facts on the ground. [end recording]

Arab Leaders View Killing, 'Outbursts'

TA3110073793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni expressed regret over the murder of Hayim Mizrahi. Al-Husayni said he is sorry for any killings of Jews or Palestinians.

Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, a member of the Palestinian peace delegation, says security forces should stop the outbursts of the Jewish settlers, and the Palestinians have a right to have their homes protected.

Abu-Zayyad appealed last night to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] office of the coordinator of activities in the territories, Major General Dani Rothschild. The Army spokesman said security forces would not allow illegal protest activities and will ensure free passage for Palestinian vehicles.

Settlers Block 'Most Main Roads'

TA0111055293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Settlers in the territories are effectively blocking most of the main roads in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza at this hour. At some of the road junctions they are burning tires and have set up barricades of rocks. So far there have been no violent confrontations with the Army, although in the Binyamin area the police have arrested several of the demonstrators. The Council of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is coordinating this morning's campaign to block the roads and prevent Palestinians from going to work inside the Green Line. The action follows Friday's [29 October] kidnapping and murder of Hayim Mizrahi from the settlement of Bet El, not far from Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Roads Open; Settlers Detained

TA0111075493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Excerpt] All the barricades have been removed from the main roads of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and they are open to traffic. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that several Jewish settlers have been detained for interrogation in the Ramallah police headquarters, but will be released later today. [passage covered]

Settlers Attack Refugee School

TA0111123193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Several Israelis rioted at the al-Jalazun refugee camp near the settlement of Bet El a short while ago, smashing windows of a school and burning one of the classrooms. Earlier this morning, eight families from Bet El occupied empty apartments near the settlement in response to Friday's [29 October] murder of Hayim Mizrahi. Reporter Dani Gur-Arye was in Bet El this morning and has this report:

[Begin Gur-Arye recording] The rioting at al-Jalazun is the settlers' latest response to Friday's murder of Bet El resident Hayim Mizrahi. Just over an hour ago several Israelis entered the refugee camp near the settlement, smashed windows at a school and set fire to a classroom. The Army arrived only after the settlers left the scene.

Earlier this morning eight families from Bet El entered empty apartments belonging to the Amidar Housing Company. The apartments were built over a year ago, but have remained empty since then. The settlers say this is a Zionist response to Mizrahi's murder. They say in some cases the response may involve harming innocent people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres: Taba Talks To Continue

TA0111122693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] In Haifa this morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres defended Prime Minister Rabin's outspoken statements following the terrorist killing of Hayim Mizrahi. Peres was interviewed by reporter Sylvia Leif:

[Begin recording] [Leif] Cabinet ministers have been speaking disparagingly about the response of the prime minister to the rioting. How do you view this?

[Peres] Cabinet ministers criticize the prime minister, but I am convinced that the prime minister has had to speak to our own people in a clear language and to call for restraint against hitting Arabs because they are Arabs, and respecting the law and order which are characterizing a democratic system. Clearly the prime minister has very little say with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] people. Hamas wants to destroy the peace process, wants to assassinate every Israeli and many Arabs who are for peace.

[Leif] What is your reaction to the stickers in Or 'Aqiva threatening Prime Minister Rabin's life? How should it be handled?

[Peres] It is a scandal, and I think the police and all the security forces should discover who did it and bring them to court.

[Leif] The settlers in Bet El said today there has been no change since the peace agreement was signed, and that there is still stone throwing, shooting, and petrol bombs, and that the rioting is only a cry for help. How do you view this?

[Peres] Well if there is no change, so why should they complain? The only change is that there is a hope which didn't exist previously. I agree with them that terror existed before the agreement, may continue to exist for the period of transition, though the scope of terror was greatly reduced—almost to half.

[Leif] Do you think that the Taba talks to resume today could be disrupted because of all this rioting?

[Peres] By no means. We shall continue with the talks. We took a decision, a historic decision, and we shall implement it in the most determined manner. [end recording]

Defense Source on 'Potential' for Jewish Underground

TA0111124593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Nov 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and army affairs correspondent Arye Qeysal]

[Excerpts] The police have launched an investigation to find out the identity of those responsible for preparing and distributing stickers stating that "Rabin should be killed." [passage omitted]

Yesterday, a senior defense source disclosed that "the recent murders in the territories could easily lead to the establishment of a Jewish underground. Anyone who ignores the potential for the appearance of radical elements, who will take the law into their own hands, simply does not understand what is happening in the field. We should take the threat of a new Jewish underground very seriously," the source said.

The senior defense source added: "There is a real potential for activity by a Jewish underground that will lead people to carry out a series of actions. Anyone ignoring this potential is blind to the facts. In their meetings with settlers, senior Army officers have heard expressions of stifled fury, and certain radical elements have launched a campaign of incitement." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Land Dealer Murdered in West Bank

TA3010131493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Ahmad 'Udda, the largest land dealer in Judaea and Samaria, was murdered in Qalqilyah at noon today. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 'Udda entered a shop in Qalqilyah to buy decorations for his daughter's wedding this evening, when two unidentified persons stormed into the shop, beat him up, grabbed his pistol and shot him in the head.

'Udda was involved in almost all the land deals in Judaea and Samaria, and was about to conclude a major deal for selling lands for the purpose of enlarging several settlements in the area. Several attempts on his life were made in the past.

Arab 'Assailant' Killed by Jew in Gaza Strip

TA3110070993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] An Arab youth was shot and killed in the industrial district near the Erez checkpoint this morning while attempting to stab a Jew. Our correspondents Moti Amir and Aviv Bushinsky report that the young man stabbed a Jew in the hand, but the latter used his weapon to shoot and kill his assailant. The stabbed Jew was evacuated to a hospital. He is reported to be in stable condition.

Disturbances were staged after the news of the assailant's death spread. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops arrived on the site and enforced order.

Arab Said Carrying Islamic Jihad Papers

TA3110120893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] An Islamic Jihad leaflet was found on the body of the terrorist who tried to murder Me'ir 'Asor with a knife at the Erez checkpoint this morning.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the attack took place in a garage in the Erez industrial park. Me'ir 'Asor, the garage owner's son-in-law, was supervising workers unloading a truck when he was attacked by 21-year-old Samir Ziyara, who tried to stab him in the back. Me'ir 'Asor suffered knife injuries in a shoulder and a palm, but he managed to draw his gun and kill his assailant.

Arab Killed by IDF for Failure To Stop at Roadblock

TA3110171993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] An Arab laborer was shot dead by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in Qalqilyah when a vehicle carrying Arab laborers from the territories did not stop at a roadblock. Another Arab was apparently wounded in the shooting. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the wounded man and two other passengers ran away on foot.

Hamas Fugitive, Activists Detained in Gaza

TA3010161893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] One wanted man and 26 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine activists were detained in Gaza City and in the al-Burayj, Dayr al-Balah, and al-Nusayrat refugee camps over the weekend. The security forces uncovered five bunkers with weapons.

Demonstrations were held today in the Gaza Strip for the release of all the Palestinian detainees. A sit-in strike of prisoners' wives took place today in the Red Cross offices in Gaza. In Rafah some 800 residents held a protest march. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a short time later two wanted men, Muhammad Tafish and Riyad Abu-Sufin appeared on the streets of Rafah, fired shots in the air and announced they were quitting the Islamic Jihad and joining the Fatah Hawks.

Offer To Increase U.S. Role in Taba Turned Down

TA3110124393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Oct 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Gay Bekhor and Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Israel has recently made it plain to the United States that it is not interested in raising the U.S. profile in the Taba talks and that it believes the talks should continue in their current format. Nevertheless, senior political sources in Jerusalem noted last night that the Taba talks are expected to run into a "crisis" in the very near future.

In their opinion, it will transpire within the next few days that there is no chance whatsoever of attaining an accord by 13 December, the date stipulated in the Israeli-PLO agreement, if the talks continue in their present format. The sources foresee arguments about changing the format of the talks, and believe that another session of the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee headed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres may be summoned to this end.

Political sources pointed out that at the request of the Palestinians, U.S. officials have on various occasions recently raised the possibility of increasing their involvement in the talks. It has been learned that at this point Israel does not see any need to increase U.S. involvement.

Sources in Rabin's bureau last night said that all the Americans want is to be "brought up to date" on what is going on in the Taba talks. Consequently, Andrew Steinfeld, a diplomat in the U.S. Embassy in Israel, was appointed as liaison to the talks with the approval of both sides. However, other political sources pointed out that the Americans feel frustrated at their actual exclusion from the talks between Israel and the Palestinians and at the lack of progress on other levels of the negotiations. They have been making exploratory contacts in a bid to increase their involvement in the Taba talks, despite the fact that Israel is not thrilled about such a development.

These sources now believe that the peace talks with other Arab countries will not begin before mid-December or even the second half of January 1994. [passage omitted]

Cairo Paper Interviews Deputy Defense Minister

NC3010164693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur by Amirah Hasan in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Hasan] What problems do you believe to be difficult and complicated in implementing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement?

[Gur] There are several problems, particularly border problems. We live on the borders. In other words, the Israeli Army's deployment is necessary to secure the borders and the country's safety and to give a sense of security to all Israeli citizens. The Palestinian side might have another stand of which I have no knowledge.

[Hasan] Which borders do you mean?

[Gur] The borders between states—Israel and Jordan, Israel and Lebanon. As far as the Israeli Army is concerned, we have a concept and new plans. I do not know yet the Palestinian ideas on this.

[Hasan] What are the Israeli plans for redeployment in Gaza and Jericho?

[Gur] This issue will be included in the negotiations agenda and I have nothing to say at present. But the Palestinian stand will be different. There are issues that have to be discussed, such as the (terrorists) issue and the protection of the [Israeli] settlements under the self-government.

[Hasan] A positive atmosphere prevailed at the Taba negotiations. Are you expecting differences when the talks move to the core of the issues?

[Gur] I do not know. I do not want differences. No one knows the Palestinian stand yet. The talks in Taba were general and have not touched on the details yet.

[Hasan] There is talk about the release of Palestinian detainees. When will this happen, and how many will there be?

[Gur] This issue will also be discussed at the negotiations. The Palestinians will present their view, and we will say what we will do. We have finished with unilateral goodwill gestures. What remains now is the negotiations.

[Hasan] What do you mean when you say that the period of goodwill gestures is over?

[Gur] We are talking today about pushing the peace between the Palestinians and Israel forward.

[Hasan] Will Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], be released? What will be the fate of the military detention camps and buildings? Will they be closed, given to the Palestinians, or removed to Israel?

[Gur] These two issues will be discussed during the negotiations.

[Hasan] The government has put you in charge of negotiating with the settlers. What will you tell them and what are their demands?

[Gur] The settlers have several problems. They are worried about their security situation and they fear self-government. They do not know how the Palestinian police will function and what its attitude toward the "terrorists" will be. They do not know what their economic position will be in the future, particularly their agricultural projects and their future freedom of movement. I reiterate that all this will be negotiated.

[Hasan] How will you calm the settlers and eliminate their fears?

[Gur] I don't believe I have succeeded in calming them regarding the topics which they have raised because they are afraid of the future in general. They want to know their fate now and not in five years. I cannot answer them. I don't know what will happen in five years. No one in the government can predict what will happen to them because this depends on developments at the talks. What I can do now is prepare a comprehensive study which I will submit to the generals and then to the chief of staff, who will draw up the policy to be followed. For your information, Jewish settlements will not come under the control of the self-rule authority but will remain under the full control of the Israeli authorities.

[Hasan] What is your opinion of the settlers' statements to the effect that during the five years of self-rule, the settlers will leave the settlements, which will no longer be a bargaining chip?

[Gur] I hope this will not be the situation. I cannot speak on behalf of the settlers, but what I can say is that we will do everything to help the settlers and provide them with security and economic aid. I hope they will stand fast in the coming phase. I hope they will not be afraid about their agriculture now and in the future, because we presume they will have a future.

[Hasan] Will the government help them and support them materially?

[Gur] The previous government gave help for all their agricultural and industrial investment. The present government is helping them materially only in some spheres.

[Hasan] Has your ministry earmarked $5 million to strengthen the security of the settlements situated in the occupied territories that will come under the control of Palestinian self-rule? What will you do?

[Gur] We are talking about a much larger amount of money. These funds will be invested in several spheres to preserve security and support the economy. They will also be used for emergency cases and other related issues. The ultimate aim is for the Israeli settlers to feel secure in the real sense of the word.

[Hasan] What is your view of the entry and exit points under Israeli control which the Palestinian side demands control of?

[Gur] All the borders points, including the entry and exit points and the bridges, will remain under the control of the Israeli government. There will be no exceptions. The borders will also remain under the control of the Israeli government.

[Hasan] How will you handle crossing and transiting between Jericho and Gaza?

[Gur] There will be no problems regarding passage between Jericho and Gaza. The details on passage between Gaza, Jericho, and Israel will be discussed during the negotiations .

[Hasan] Transiting so far is handled through permits issued by the military governor and the civilian administration. What will the situation be after the implementation of self-rule and the Gaza-Jericho first agreement?

[Gur] Passports are used between one state and another.

[Hasan] So you foresee a Palestinian state issuing passports?

[Gur] No, today there is a closure of the areas. In any case, the subject will be discussed during the negotiations.

[Hasan] Do you plan to lift the blockade imposed on the occupied territories? During the police minister's meeting with Faysal al-Husayni, we heard that this blockade will be eased.

[Gur] This subject will also be discussed during the negotiations.

[Hasan] Why did you criticize Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin for speaking about a final solution with 'Arafat?

[Gur] There are government decisions. Whoever works in the government must be disciplined and not be a politician. If he had remained just a Knesset Member, he could have spoken as he wanted. But being a deputy foreign minister, he must act in accordance with government decisions. There is a decision not to speak about a final solution. I believe Beilin made a big mistake.

[Hasan] What is your view of the role of the Palestinian police?

[Gur] I hope the Palestinian police will work in a good way. I hope they will carry out all their duties and control the situation, maintain law and order, and without terrorism. This is important.

[Hasan] Will the Palestinian policemen carry weapons like Israeli policemen?

[Gur] This matter will be decided at the negotiations.

[Hasan] What is your view of the establishment of a Palestinian army?

[Gur] This is out of the question now and in the future, in any form.

[Hasan] In practice, are we on the road to the establishment of a Palestinian state?

[Gur] I hope not. In any case, this is connected with the final solution.

[Hasan] How do you view Hamas' current status in the occupied territories?

[Gur] Hamas activity stopped in recent years [sentence as published]. I don't know if the agreement has affected them or not. The PLO is now responsible for the whole situation and for the Palestinian man in the street.

[Hasan] What is your view of the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees who left since 1967? How will their return affect the situation?

[Gur] Undoubtedly, the return of the refugees entails certain risks. The government has not yet decided on this issue even though it will be discussed at the negotiations. I don't believe the government will make a decision on this issue in the future. The refugee committee must discuss this issue. The Arab states who have been hosting the Palestinian refugees for 45 years must give them citizenship.

[Hasan] What will the 1967 refugees do with their property, land, and families who are still in the occupied territories? You are preventing their return.

[Gur] The return of the refugees will be catastrophic for Israel.

[Hasan] What about the 1948 refugees?

[Gur] Their number is also very huge and they threaten Israel's security. The Arab states must absorb them.

[Hasan] The Arabs are again demanding that Israel open its nuclear installations to inspection by international observers. What is your view?

[Gur] I don't know what installations they are speaking about. I caution Israel against diminishing its military power to please any of the neighboring states. This would expose Israel to dangers.

[Hasan] Will Israel agree to sign the international document [not further specified]?

[Gur] I don't know if Israel will agree or not. However, what I know is that Israel must remain strong under all circumstances and in all spheres.

Border Troops in Jordan Valley Attacked 29 Oct

Officer Dies, Others Wounded

JN2910161893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] A responsible military source has stated the following:

At 0830 today [Friday, 29 October], an armed group of three people approached one of our forward military positions northwest of al-Karamah [approximately 20 miles west of Amman in the Jordan Valley]. After they were warned and asked to identify themselves, these armed men opened machinegun fire on our soldiers. A noncommissioned officer was martyred and some soldiers were wounded. This compelled the personnel of the military position to attack and kill them all.

Islamist Group Said Responsible

JN3010124193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned from an authoritative source that the armed group that attacked a military position yesterday in the al- Karamah area, several meters from the cease-fire line with Israel, was affiliated with an extremist Islamic organization. First indications show that two members of the three-man group were not Jordanians and held citizenship in another Arab country while the third man was a Jordanian.

The same source noted that the objective of the three armed men, who killed a noncommissioned officer and wounded five soldiers before they were killed, was to engage the Jordanian military, not to infiltrate into the occupied territory. Infiltrators usually avoid any engagement with Jordanian soldiers.

The source added that the objective of this operation was to strike at a group from the Jordanian Army while preparations are under way for parliamentary elections, and just a few weeks after the announcement of the Jordanian-Israeli talks agenda.

Further on Islamist Affiliation

JN0111130993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The commander of the armed group which attacked a Jordanian military post on Friday was under the influence of 'Abdallah 'Azzam, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, who was killed in Afghanistan in 1989. He had also worked at the al-Faruq Mosque in Brooklyn, New York. That mosque served as a missionary center for Egyptian clergyman 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. This information was confirmed by Iman Hajjat, wife of Hasan Husayn Hajjat, who was killed in the attack, along with his two Yemeni companions. A Jordanian noncommissioned officer was also killed and five soldiers were wounded in the operation.

Iman, who married Hasan three months ago, said her husband always listened to recordings of sermons by 'Abdallah 'Azzam. She, however, said she did not know whether her husband had earlier lived in Afghanistan. She said that after obtaining his tawjihi [secondary school] certificate, Hasan went to Germany but was not successful there. He returned to Amman and applied for a U.S. visa. He obtained it immediately and left for the United States in 1991. During his second year in the United States, extremist religious tendencies began to appear in his letters to Iman. Following their marriage, Hasan always talked about jihad and his determination to win martyrdom, stressing that he would kill anyone who tried to dissuade him from martyrdom even if he were an Islamist.

There are feelings of anger and denunciation among the families of the Jordanian officer who was killed and his wounded companions. They condemned the use of violence in the name of religion.

King Visits Family of Slain Officer

JN3010194693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpts] This afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited the family of the martyr, the Noncommissioned Officer Husayn Muhammad 'Ali, in the town of Dayr Abi-Sa'id. His majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn, and Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

His majesty offered his deep condolences over the martyrdom of the deceased, who sacrificed his life in defense of the precious soil of the homeland. The martyr's family expressed their gratitude and thanks to his majesty the supreme commander for this royal gesture, which had a good effect on them. They asserted their loyalty to his majesty, their rallying around the Hashemite banner, as well as their readiness to sacrifice their lives to protect the Hashemite throne and the precious homeland. [passage omitted on details of officer's military burial ceremony]

His majesty the supreme commander, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al- Husayn, and Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al- Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, yesterday evening visited al-Husayn Medical Center to be reassured about the condition of the soldiers who were injured during the attack on the military post northwestern al-Karamah. His majesty ordered that all medical arrangements be made so they may recover quickly and return to their posts.

King Tours Army Formations 30 Oct

JN3010192593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpts] This afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, made a field visit to several Armed Forces formations. His majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn, and Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

His majesty began his field tour with a visit to one of the formations of the Fourth Mechanized Royal Division. [passage omitted] His majesty the supreme commander concluded his tour with a visit to one of the units of the Royal Air Force. He was received by the chief of staff of the Air Force and several Air Force officers.

IAF Stages First Election Rally 29 Oct

JN3010095793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 93 pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text]—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) did not wait long to hold their first public rally after a court decision overruled a Ministry of Interior decree banning public rallies in the run-up to the Nov. 8 elections.

Right after Friday midmorning prayers, the front held its first election rally in the upper-income district of al-Shumaysani where national unity and Palestine figured as the main themes of the day.

"The Islamic Action Front is fielding a candidate with character and moral high ground in the Third District of Amman and it is he who will represent the conscious of our people in parliament," said former Lower House of Parliament Deputy Yusut al-'Azm as he introduced his party's candidate, Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani, at the front's first rally of the 1993 election campaign.

In a neatly-placed bedouin tent, with about three quarters of the white plastic chairs full, most of them with worshipers from the Prince Hasan Mosque in al-Shumaysani, the IAF activists underlined the election slogans of their party.

The law forbids political lecturing or campaigning from the mosque pulpit. The Friday preacher at the Prince Hasan Mosque announced from the pulpit that the rally would take place as soon as prayers ended.

But like the campaign rally speech of Mr. al-Kilani, the Friday sermons at the Mosque concentrated on foreign relations rather than on internal affairs. Oppression of Muslims in Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan and Lebanon was condemned, but there was no mention of issues closer to home.

In his introductory speech, at the rally, Mr. al-'Azm stressed national unity and condemned the one-person, one-vote system as sectarian and unfair. He accused some political parties of stressing sectarian issues and dividing the electorate on tribal lines.

"Our aim is to unite people, not to divide them, to create cohesion and not fragmentation, (and) to stress that we are indeed one people—two sides of the same coin," said Mr. al-'Azm, an excellent orator. Speaking in a part of the Third District that is heavily populated by middle and upper class Jordanians of Palestinian origin, Mr. al-'Azm and Mr. al-Kilani stressed the unity of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples.

"All Jordanians are Jordanians, with equal rights and equal participation regardless of their origins," said Mr. al-Kilani.

Focusing away from domestic issues for the rest of his speech, Mr. al-Kilani attacked camera teams filming the rally calling them "the CNN-CIA connection." The Cable News Network was not present at the rally. But Mr. al-Kilani took the opportunity to launch a monologue on the evils of Western television and their distortion of Islam.

"Why do Western Television stations film all our rallies?" Mr. al-Kilani asked his audience of about 250 people. "Are we such a danger to them that they have to collect intelligence on us?"

Mr. al-Kilani attacked Israel for what he claimed was a plan to exhume the body of Palestinian war hero 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, after whom the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas is named. "The ex-humation and the insistence to keep crippled Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in prison despite the release of other Palestinians political prisoners is not comprehensible," Mr. al- Kilani said.

"Are the Israelis so afraid of a dead man and a leader in wheelchair?" he asked.

EC Grant To Help Finance Upcoming Elections

JN3110204293 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] At the Interior Ministry, the Minister Salamah Hammad and the EC representative in Jordan, Jean Pierre Pierard, signed an agreement providing a European grant to Jordan to cover part of the costs of the parliamentary elections.

The grant of 550,000 Jordanian dinars [JD] is part of the EC aid program to support democracy and respect for human rights in world countries.

[Begin Pierard recording] It's in fact in the long process of cooperation with Jordan that the community has decided to support the democratic process Jordan has undertaken for a few years now, and that the community has decided to support the elections 1993. And we gave some 550,000 JD for these elections, and we are sure that Jordan, especially the Ministry of Interior, will use it perfectly as every cooperation we have had so far with Jordan has gone so well. [end recording]

King Reviews Arab, Domestic Developments

JN3010203493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Address by King Husayn of Jordan at the Command of the 12th Mechanized Royal Division; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] I am in fact extremely happy to have this opportunity to be among you today. I had planned to make this visit a long time ago, but, regrettably, the circumstances were not helpful. [passage omitted]

We were taken aback by the recent fast-breaking developments. Simply, we had to make decisions on the domestic and foreign levels. As for the central question, which I believe is the root cause of instability in this part of the world and beyond, and which is, for us, the first and foremost question, we have long struggled so our kinsfolk and brothers, the sons of Palestine, may achieve their rights on their national soil. We have offered what we could, all of us in this country and on this soil, and throughout our long march.

Once again, briefly, we have taken a clear, unequivocal position since 1974, and we have remained committed to it. This position was in response to a Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic desire to consider the PLO the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. This was the decision of the Arab summit. This is what we committed ourselves to. We tried to work together under different circumstances, out of our awareness of and eagerness to fulfill our duty toward our kinsfolk and brothers in the occupied territories, and in light of their suffering, endurance, and patience. But we did not succeed. As time went by, we made a decision to sever legal and administrative ties [with the West Bank], not to serve the interest of Israel but to enable the Palestinian side to exercise more of its rights and shoulder its responsibilities directly, with full support and backing from us. Hence what happened, when the PLO made decisions, including recognizing or accepting Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which for a long time they had not accepted until Jordan took that position. Thus, they were able to accept these resolutions, which are now the basis of the peace process and the attempts to reach peace.

Regarding our positions toward the Arab nation and the issues and problems that face it, thank God, our heads have remained, and shall remain, high. We will bow only to almighty God. We will always tell the truth and defend it and express our concern about the rights of the Arab on his soil and in his greater homeland.

The picture has changed in this world. Things have moved in the direction of peace. We have said, and we repeat, that peace should be just and comprehensive. This is our wish, which we hope will materialize. We want a peace that future generations can accept and safeguard. We were invited to Madrid and then to Moscow and Washington, and in all the cases, things could not have moved in a positive direction except when we offered an umbrella to the PLO to represent, with absolute freedom, the Palestinian side, within the framework of a joint delegation, which was, practically, a Palestinian and Jordanian delegation.

We then entered a certain stage. A multilateral conference was proposed. We welcomed that. We also wanted to make the world participate in making and crystallizing a concept of the future state of affairs when matters reach a point at which people imagine the possibility of establishing peace in this part of the world in order to meet people's needs, to change the way of life, and to deal with the people's many requirements.

While were concerned about coordination among our Arab brothers, we were surprised by the independent Palestinian decision that led to a meeting in Washington. Then the Palestinian and Israeli leaders shook hands, agreed to a mutual recognition, signed a declaration of principles, and began work to reach the required solution based on Resolutions 242 and 338, as we repeatedly hear.

In fact, I have no choice but to return to the basic principles, as we were perplexed and did not imagine or prepare ourselves for what had taken place. Since 1974, we have adopted a firm rather than a seasonal position. When we take a position we commit ourselves to it under all circumstances. Very simply, we have reasons for feeling pain because we used to talk about coordination, which, in fact, is better than before. But such a large-scale surprising movement will reflect, to a certain extent, on our credibility, which we view as basic. However, we have no other choice. We reiterate our commitment to respecting the independent and free Palestinian decision.

We are dutybound to support the Palestinian people. We appeal to them all to unite because if they are disunited under the current circumstance, the results will be worse than anybody can imagine and will be in the interest of the enemies of Palestine, life, and the nation. If we had left them without support, they would have become weaker. By taking such a position and extending our support, we may reach a situation in which we can work out the required balance in facing the next stage. Once again, we return to the basic issue, which means the compliance of all the Arab countries involved, as well as Israel, with moving toward a just and comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 242 and 338. This has been the case since the Madrid meetings and will continue until we see how matters develop and what direction they take.

We delayed action regarding the agenda. In other words, we have delayed a group of issues pertaining to us here in Jordan. We have been insisting on progress on the Palestinian track. But we were surprised by the extent of progress. We then extended our support by signing the agenda in order to deal will the numerous issues we have in front of us. This step followed the Palestinian step as a support and to make the Palestinians unite under this critical and difficult circumstance, which requires us to extend our utmost support.

Therefore, this is the phase in which we are passing these days, namely, the issue of the parliamentary elections in our country. As always, I have left the opportunity for various opinions. We always hear them. Perhaps the new developments presented a new line of thought. Do we carry them out, postpone them? However, eventually I made the decision, and I hope it will be the right decision, with due respect to all opinions, to proceed, relying on God because we have chosen this path and we must proceed on it at all circumstances and in all cases.

The entire question is that of trust. We trust our people and kinsfolk. We pray God to have their trust, also, and to win their trust at all times. No value is left for life without this trust. No responsibility for anyone is worth anything without this trust.

With God's blessings, matters are proceedings toward elections, which will, God willing, result in a new House of Representatives that will include a group of enlightened, sincere persons who really reflect people's feelings and aspirations in this country. From my position, heading the three branches of power, we watch and we try to continue our march toward what is good. We believe that there should be a balance, that no side or power will encroach on the other power, that the law will be respected above all other considerations, that the election will be decent and clean in every sense of the word.

This does not mean anarchy. It does not mean that we should allow in any form matters to reach a line which if crossed will make things reflect negatively on all of us.

A few days from now we will have the election and its results will be good, God willing. Frankly, I do not like the fact that we have 20-plus parties. We drew attention to overcrowdedness that hinders movement. But this is a phase in our life. People will learn by time, and realize that we must change and develop. Perhaps future elections will give us better results in the right direction.

I greatly hope that people will carry out their duties at this stage. Again, brothers, I have great hope in you. When we shoulder this responsibility together, from all walks of life, the results will be good. This is the path. God bless you.

With God's help, we will remain proud, and our head will not bow except to God almighty.

I wish you good health.. Say hello to all your brothers.

God will grant us success.

Editorial on Commitment to 'Comprehensive' Peace

JN3010092593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Oct 93 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "No Alternative to a Comprehensive Solution"]

[Text] It was not strange for the Israeli media and some Western media to continue their known methods of falsifying facts and distorting statements in order to cast doubt on the unified Arab negotiating position in the peace process, undermine the cohesion of this position, and upset the collective adherence to a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the region.

Every now and then, these media carry false or distorted reports and information that harm this or that Arab party, and that aim to publicize separate solutions and partial settlements, and evoke doubts and differences among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. These reports also aim to fragment the negotiating position and create differences that have been dreamed up by the hostile parties seeking to undermine the peace process and derail it from its path toward a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The latest episode in the disinformation campaigns was a report attributed by some media to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', whose statements did not actually depart from the framework of the unified and cohesive Arab position. However, these statements were distorted with the aim of deception, casting doubts, and harming both Jordan and Syria.

The Syrian clarification of these statements has refuted the published report, and stressed that both Syria and Jordan are concerned about a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. At the same time, this clarification reaffirms the consistent pan-Arab positions of the two fraternal countries and their leaderships. These positions reject separate solutions and partial settlements that harm the Arab nation, its supreme pan-Arab interests, and the Arabs' right to liberate their territories from occupation and regain their legitimate rights as part of the desired just and comprehensive peace

Deep fraternal relations, consistent positions, continued coordination between Amman and Damascus, and insistence by both countries that peace cannot be achieved and cannot be acceptable and comprehensive unless Israel fully withdraws from all occupied Arab territories, are all bound to foil the attempts to play the tune of separate solutions, take advantage of circumstances, and distort positions and statements.

The brothers in Syria know better than others that Jordan adheres to its pan-Arab positions and that it is as concerned about the nation's rights on all fronts of conflict with Israel as it is about its rights to its own territory. They also know Jordan is concerned about the requisites of peace—based on international legitimacy and its resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. Likewise, Jordan knows that Syria and Lebanon are in the right in their just demands for a comprehensive peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon as part of any desired peace settlement.

We are confident that a unified Arab negotiating position and a unified commitment to the determined bases of peace by means of continued coordination among the brothers will foil all attempts to divide the ranks and create differences, and will also bury these attempts in the cemetery of separate solutions and partial deals designed to liquidate the Arab cause.

Amman Not To 'Go It Alone' in Talks With Israel

JN3110122593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Oct 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Imperative For Coordination"]

[Text] The Syrian ambassador in Amman did well Thursday to explain that a statement his foreign minister made last week did not include any warning to Jordan over making separate peace with Israel.

The French news agency AFP quoted Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as telling al-Diyar newspaper in an interview that he believes it was "not in Jordan's interests to take a separate road because this will complicate the situation in Jordan and will not lead to stability." The outgoing ambassador, Majid Abu-Salah, apparently on instructions from Mr. al-Shar' himself, said in his statement that the minister did not use the word "warning" in his interview and that Mr. al-Shar' was expressing Syrian fears that Israel wanted to push for separate peace deals with Arab parties to the peace talks.

While Syria is right to be concerned about Israel's policy of dividing the Arab stand in the negotiations, it should have no worries about Jordan's policy and position vis-a-vis the peace process. Jordan has repeatedly asserted its commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan demonstrated this commitment when it delayed the signing of its agenda with Israel until after progress was made on the Palestinian track.

The way in which progress was made on the Palestinian-Israeli track, however, has dealt a severe blow to Arab coordination, forcing Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to guard more closely their national interests.

But the focus on national interests of the individual Arab states involved in the peace talks should not weaken the level of coordination among them. In fact the interconnectedness of the political and economic interests of these countries makes closer cooperation and coordination an imperative that cannot be overlooked.

Especially in the light of the division that has weakened the Arab World as a whole since the eruption of the Gulf crisis in 1990 and the collapse of the traditionally pro-Arab Eastern Bloc before it.

The Arab World cannot afford more division if it wants to regain at least part of its rights from Israel. Any more inter-Arab disputes will play into the hands of Israel, which continues to enjoy the support of the United States, the only superpower in the world.

Jordan, through word and action, has demonstrated apt understanding of these facts and has worked to maintain the utmost level of coordination among Arab parties to the peace talks. Its endeavours to bring about reconciliation among Arab states that were divided by their stands on the Gulf war is another testimony to Jordan's understanding of the need for a strong Arab World. That Syria knows and that should give it enough assurances that Jordan will not go it alone in its talks with Israel.

U.S., Israeli Attitudes on Peace Process Scored

NC0111093593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Oct 93 p 1

[Muhammad Mashmushi column: "The U.S. Price: What Is Being Offered and What Is Demanded"]

[Excerpts] Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Arab-Israeli talks, has summed up the situation as Washington sees it now by saying that two parties, the Arabs and the United States, have to pay the price of Israel's signature on the Gaza-Jericho agreement to obtain its signature with the Lebanese and the Syrians. He said that for the United States, this price means that the "United States will bear the costs of the Israeli peace." As for the Arabs, they will have to make the Israelis "see that the Arab hand is reaching out to them."

In other words, it means that Israel has paid, and paid very dearly, by signing the agreement with the PLO, and all it has to do now to balance the scales of justice is wait for others to pay! With the economic recession hitting the United States, its contribution to the "peace costs" is a major sacrifice on its part for the sake of the Arabs, particularly the Lebanese and Syrians, who in turn must make their own contributions if they want the U.S. settlement to reach its destination.

Ross' remarks were made before an Arab-American organization in Washington following his recent tour of the region. His remarks could be understood by the Arabs as a response to the constant Arab demand to apply pressure on Israel. For the Israelis, his remarks will certainly be understood as the U.S. translation of "pressure" into "privileges," "sticks" into "carrots." Either way, the result will not serve the interests of the settlement process over the short or long term. This is because Israel, as usual, will ask for more, and the Arabs, despite all signs to the contrary, will have increasing doubts about the U.S. role and its "fairness" in the coming stage of negotiations, as in previous stages. [passage omitted]

Israel has always refused nothing less than everything, and even when it has everything, it asks for more! Circumstances may have changed in the world and in Israel itself, as some Americans say, but the "carrot" is not the solution, whether it comes from the Americans, the Arabs, or any other party.

During the latest meeting of the water committee in Beijing, the Israeli delegation, obviously delighted by the atmosphere of the meeting, offered an example of what Israel wants. The delegation objected to a phrase used by the head of the Palestinian delegation, who demanded the Palestinian people's right to the water. The Israeli delegation pointed out that nobody has a "right" to the water, but a "right" to use the water, that's all. The Israeli objection seeks to negate the Arab rights to the water, which springs from or runs through Arab territories. They see them as rights to use the water, so that Israel itself may have similar "rights."

This is just one example, but it is always the same example. What is regrettable is that the Americans close their eyes to anything that is Israeli and stare at anything that is Arab. Their motto is peace at any price. Such peace could be born, but it may not live long.

Buwayz on 'Unseen Pressures' for Ties With Israel

NC2910134493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies Foreign Affairs Committee met today. Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told members that Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco submitted a draft resolution [to the Arab League] to reconsider the UN resolutions dealing with the Arab- Israeli conflict, especially the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel. He added: Lebanon and Syria firmly rejected the draft resolution.

Buwayz added: There is a conspiracy against the Arab negotiator to remove the cards from his hand such that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid called for postponing the debate on the issue.

Buwayz discussed Ross' visit to the region, saying that it revealed there are differences in the Israeli and U.S. views. While the Americans are in a hurry, the Israelis need a few months, he added.

On Lebanon's alleged participation in the Ankara conference [on water resources, in which Israel participated], Buwayz said: The Foreign Ministry knows nothing about the delegations participating in conferences. Some delegations participate without the Ministry's knowledge.

On normalization [with Israel], Buwayz said there are unseen pressures and unspoken conditions that we can feel.

Junblatt Stresses Unity With Syria

NC3110133093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt made an announcement in al- Mukhtarah when he met with a delegation from the al-Hasaniyah family of Jabal al-'Arab, who came to visit him. In a speech he delivered on the occasion, he said: We have always joined hands with Syria in our struggle and we will do so in the future. Syria and Lebanon are one nation in two countries. This is a slogan we repeat and stress. It is a statement President Hafiz al-Asad knows very well. We are one national Arab family from Jabal Lubnan, to Jabal al-'Arab, to Damascus, to Aleppo, to Hamah, to Beirut, and including every hamlet and village in Lebanon and Syria. In the future, we will continue to confront all conspiracies. Irrespective of the extent of Israeli belligerence, we will destroy it. We are still at the beginning of the road. We are not rushing to find a settlement or a solution. We are at the beginning of the road.

Minister Junblatt added: We fought together in the mountain war and you in Syria provided us with arms, men, and moral and material support. We triumphed over NATO, isolationism, the israelis, political maronism, and the isolationist army, the two of us together. It is true that today we are going through a stage of peace, but we must always be alert because we do not know what the situation holds for us. The remnants of the Lebanese isolationists and political maronism are sly. We do not know what the West and Israel are scheming against us. Nevertheless, we are not afraid. We have many men. And when I say we, I mean between here and Jabal al-'Arab there are many men and we are not afraid.

Norwegian Defense Minister Arrives on Visit

NC0111091993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Norwegian Defense Minister Jorgen Kosmo arrived in Beirut today on a three-day visit during which he will meet Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and Army Commander General Emile Lahhud. He will also inspect the Norwegian contingent serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The Norwegian minister left Beirut International Airport immediately for south Lebanon on board a military helicopter. He was received at the airport by representatives of the defense minister and the Army commander.

Resistance Clashes in South Lebanon Updated

IDF, SLA 'Fiercely' Shell 'Terrorists'

TA2910113393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Terrorists directed mortar fire this morning against the Kafr Hunah passage and the al-Rayhan area in the eastern sector of the security zone.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the terrorists also fired heavy machine guns and RPG rockets. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] retaliated by fiercely shelling terrorist positions.

Israeli Army Post Attacked

NC3010175193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The resistance attacked an Israeli Army post in al-Shaqif castle this afternoon. Four 120-mm mortar shills directly hit the post, but it is still not known if there were any casualties. No group has yet announced responsibility for the attack.

Israelis Shell Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC3110084193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] At about 0915 today Israeli forces bombarded the outskirts of al-Luwayzah and the Mlita plantation in Iqlim al- Tuffah.

Israelis Rake Southern Coast

NC3110094193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Israeli forces this morning carried out a large-scale raking operation of the southern coast in the Tyre area from land and sea. Israeli forces in al-Bayyadah and al-Hamra' and Israeli gunboats raked the coasts of al-Mansuri, al-Hamra', al-Bayyadah, Iskandarunah, and al-Rashidiyah.

At dawn today, Israeli forces raked the outskirts of Bra'shit, Haddatha, the al-Saluqi Valley, and the al-Hujayr Valley with machine guns.

Amal Claims Attack on SLA Posts

NC0111094293 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that South Lebanese Army posts in Tallusah and [placename indistinct] came under terrorist gunfire last night. There were no casualties. Personnel manning the two posts returned fire.

[Paris AFP in English at 0846 GMT on 1 November, in a related Marj 'Uyun-datelined report, adds the following: "Pro-Syrian guerrillas fired rockets at Israel's proxy militia in south Lebanon at dawn on Monday, but security services said the attack left no casualties.

["The Shiite Muslim movement Amal, headed by Lebanese parliamentary speaker Nabih Birri, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement issued in the Lebanese port city of Tyre.

["Security services said the guerrillas fired five anti-tank rockets at a South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia position at Tallusah, on the edge of the central part of Israel's self-declared security zone.

["A 10-minute gunfight followed.

["Lebanese police added that Israeli artillery shelled areas around villages north of the occupied zone.

["Pro-Syrian and Iranian-backed groups—especially the Hizballah—have stepped up their attacks since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on September 13 signed a deal for Palestinian autonomy."]

Mubarak, al-Asad Cited on Talks, Jordan

JN3010192193 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Humaymim Airport in Latakia at 1230 today. [passage omitted]

President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a closed meeting. Later, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' joined the meeting. From the Egyptian side, the meeting was joined by 'Amr Musa, foreign minister; Dr. Atif 'Ubayd, minister of administrative and economic development; Dr. Yusuf Butrus- Ghali, minister of state; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office; and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the peace process in the Middle East. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak briefed President Hafiz al-Asad on the visits he made to Washington and Paris, and the talks he held with the officials there.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his delegation left Humaymim Airport at 1700 today.

President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw him off.

The two presidents answered questions by reporters who gathered at the airport.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Your Excellency, you have already announced that Syria supports any progress on any track because this would realize progress on other tracks.

[Al-Asad] Exactly.

[Reporter] That any achievement on any track would help the other track.

[Al-Asad] Exactly.

[Reporter] Then has the situation changed after the Israeli-Palestinian agreement?

[Al-Asad] Not at all, it has not changed, it has not changed. But, I said, provided it does not contradict itself firstly or contradict the others, that is, the other tracks secondly.

[Reporter] Will you support this so that it could realize an agreement on the Syrian track, God willing?

[Al-Asad] Which agreement?

[Reporter] Gaza-Jericho.

[Al-Asad] No, but I have said it and I have finished with it. [laughter] I have conveyed this to Yasir 'Arafat himself. [laughter] We are not satisfied with the agreement, but we will neither oppose nor support it.

[Reporter] What about the elements that oppose [the agreement] here in Damascus?

[Al-Asad] These are free elements. Aren't we the supporters of ... [laughs and changes thought] Is the world not talking about democracy, do you want us .... [sentence incomplete].

[Reporter] Aren't you optimistic that the peace process will soon get a shove?

[Mubarak] I am optimistic by nature. We have no solution except peace. Our peoples want peace, but we want a just peace by which people will have their rights, their territories restored. This is (?genuine) peace.

[Reporter] Did you feel any indications during your meeting with Clinton concerning a push to the peace process?

[Mubarak] I talked with President Clinton. President Clinton is concerned about the peace process, supporting the peace process, and we are proceeding toward negotiations, God willing.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, are you optimistic after your talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, after you have reviewed with him the Washington and Paris talks?

[Mubarak] President Hafiz al-Asad and I understand one another quite well. I have said more than once, even in Washington, that he wants a genuine peace, not mere talk. I said this in the Congress, in the Senate, and in front of the U.S. President. I am certain that the president wants peace, but he wants honorable, just peace.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, can we summarize the pillars of the honorable and just peace that could be realized between Syria and Israel?

[Al-Asad] Resolutions 338 and 242, territory for peace, all the territory.

[Reporter] Is the Syria position harmed by an Israeli-Jordanian agreement? What are the facts behind the Syrian warning that was directed to Jordan?

[Al-Asad] I do not think that there was a warning. Relations between Syria and Jordan are good. Jordan has repeatedly stated that it abides by a comprehensive solution and we have no reason to expect otherwise.

[Reporter] What exactly is the crux of the Syrian-Israeli position? Does Syria really accept full territory for full peace?

[Al-Asad] We have stated this, the foreign minister ...

[Reporter, interrupting] What is the problem then?

[Al-Asad] The problem is that Israel does not want peace. [laughter]

[Reporter] Your Excellency the president, what is required from Egypt during the next stage concerning the peace process and concerning the Syrian track?

[Al-Asad] Egypt had always been of heavy weight within the Arab nation, and Syria and Egypt have always been the basis of this nation and its shining historical pages. We exchange views and exchange what benefits our bilateral relations. We exchange what benefits us in reaching a comprehensive, just, and full peace. As you see, meetings are being held from time to time. We exchange information. We exchange everything. Our relations with Egypt are as good as they have always been, and as we want them to be.

[Reporter] Your Excellency President Mubarak, you expected the Syrian-Israeli agreement to take place within a short period of time, now after...

[Mubarak, interrupting] I said I hope they reach an agreement by the end of this year. This may be delayed by one or two months. All these are wishes within my feeling concerning the situation. We have contacts with all concerned parties. Syria and Egypt have old relations. We should support the Syrian position.

[Reporter] Are there contacts with the Israeli side following...

[Mubarak, interrupting] We have continuous contacts with Israel concerning the peace process...

[Reporter, interrupting] Following the talks with President al-Asad...

[Mubarak, interrupting] No, I came here to brief President Hafiz on the talks in Washington and Paris. Of course, we have contacts, even with Israel. This is a continuous process, whether I come here or go directly to Cairo.

[Unidentified reporter] Is President Hafiz al-Asad satisfied with the picture you conveyed to him concerning the talks held in Washington?

[Mubarak] Ask him. [laughter] [end recording]

Al-Shar' Views Syrian Position in Peace Process

NC2910193393 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 10

[By Muwaffaq al-Madani]

[Text] Damascus—Syria is not isolated; its political and diplomatic activity is aimed at isolating those in the area who try to isolate it.

What amazes you in Damascus is that the activity that went on in the important Arab and international capitals in the past two weeks under the direct guidance of President Hafiz al-Asad confirms Syria's ingeniousness in shaping foreign policy in this new fateful pan-Arab experiment.

Who would believe that Damascus—just as everyone was saying that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement had placed Syria in a weak position or in an isolated position in the area—would host British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd? The presence of the British minister in the Umayyad's capital shows the need for Britain to get involved in the solution of the Middle East crisis at its most dangerous current junctures.

British involvement in Middle Eastern policy since the sixties has been insignificant, because it has played a complementary role to U.S. policy. European policies, particularly that of the French, have overtaken it. But since Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Douglas Hurd last Saturday [23 October], the government of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has acquired a new significance within the framework of the current developments in the Middle East and at their crucial points.

Here in the Syrian capital the entire leadership appears busy with vital political activity, energetically working to prepare a strong Syrian position that will safeguard legitimate Arab rights during this period of intrigues.

Despite this preoccupation, Syrian contacts and activities appear interlinked.

While the Syrian leadership was busy receiving U.S. envoy Dennis Ross and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the end of last week, the leadership was able to find time to pay primary attention to Lebanese affairs. As Ross and Hurd went out the door of the senior Syrian officials, Lebanese officials entered through the same door.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri visited Damascus. The Syrian leadership briefed them on the latest developments and fast unfolding events and surprises.

It can be said that the Syrian leadership has absorbed the storm of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. In fact, it changed the direction of the wind of surprise that blew around it and the region. Syria informed the major capitals of the world, particularly Washington, of Syria's safe haven from the storm. They were informed that Syria adheres to the principles of a comprehensive and just solution based on land for peace and the implementation of the UN resolutions. This is what is needed if a settlement is to bring stability to the region, end the conflict, and ensure the region's prosperity.

Syria conveyed this firm and clear position to the United States, France, and Europe in the language of politics and emotions and more than that, in the language of the common interests among countries and peoples. Anything to the contrary would risk the interests of the big powers, the regional states, and the peoples.

On the seventh day after his long diplomatic trip Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was resting in al-Maliki neighborhood of Abu Rummanah. Al-Shar' was resting on Monday, after bidding farewell to Ross and Hurd. He was in his office, under a colored picture of President Hafiz al-Asad, from which he gets inspiration in his difficult tasks.

The Syrian foreign minister's office was not new to a correspondent like me when I entered Minister al-Shar' on Monday morning. I have often called on him and on his predecessor and the present Syrian vice president, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, for interviews since the corrective movement in Syria in the seventies. In this office I experienced the various changes and developments in the Lebanese and Middle Eastern crisis, both during its violent and calm stages.

The fact is that nothing has changed in the office of Minister Faruq al-Shar', except that the furniture has been rearranged. This office has throughout this period been the scene of the most tumultuous political chapters in Arab and international affairs. Here is one of the most important kitchens of Arab policy in modern times! Al-Shar' has quickly proved to be one of the brightest and most successful Arab foreign ministers. He is also one of the most capable, active, and outspoken ministers. Add to this his generous hospitality and charm both in politics and with journalists. He speaks to you like a kind brother who puts you in the picture because you are a member of the family, and it is the duty of both of you to work with dedication, perseverance, honesty, and energy to serve family interests.

Al-Shar' is back in his office after a somewhat long absence recently, during which he was engaged in wide-ranging diplomatic activity. I sat opposite him at the Syrian Foreign Ministry on the same warm couch where Dennis Ross and Douglas Hurd had sat a few days before. Like many Lebanese and Arab citizens, I was burdened with concerns and fears about the future.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is currently leading a strong campaign against the Syrian position, even in some of the Arab capitals he visits. Peres believes that negotiations with Syria have third priority now that negotiations have started with Jordan. A few days ago, the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ disclosed that Syria had rejected a new Oslo—that is, secret talks with Israel—and also rejected a summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sponsored by the United States.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' confirms the Syrian rejection of unilateral and secret talks with Israel. It is a rejection of Israel's attempt, in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, to conclude a separate deal in a bid to deviate from the Madrid formula of negotiations.

Israel's goal, as Syria sees it, is to place the bilateral negotiations in an empty circle. Thus, if no radical solutions are found on the basis of the Madrid conference—a just and comprehensive peace and land in exchange for peace—with a view to implementing the international resolutions, Israel's position is to try to depict Syria's stand as one rejecting peace and a settlement in the Middle East.

The Syrian officials, particularly Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', repeatedly say that Israel's goal is to obstruct the Middle East process and hold Syria responsible for not attaining peace. And then, after the Gaza-Jericho agreement, they would drag the Arabs to separate deals, thus evading a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and recognition of Arab rights.

Thus, according to the Syrian foreign minister, it is Syria's conviction that Israel's goal is not to reach a real and solid peace in the region but, consequently, to divide the solutions. But this runs contrary to international and regional interests, since the purpose of peace is to achieve comprehensive stability in the Middle East through which the region can reach an era of prosperity. Syria's belief, according to al-Shar', is that all major countries, as well as the regional states, have an interest in attaining real and solid peace on the basis of the Madrid formula. This is because any peace tailored to suit Israel's interests, and thus turning it into a regional power and turning the remaining Arab parties into its mere satellites, will not bring about peace in the region, but rather will increase the prospects of confrontations, extremism, and instability.

Thereupon, al-Shar' believes that the interest of the Arab states and the major states, particularly the cosponsors of peace, conflicts in this instance with the Israeli goals which are trying to impose an incomplete, distorted, and provocative Israeli peace that ignores a comprehensive Arab settlement based on the principle of land in exchange for peace and on the implementation of the international resolutions.

Speaking to AL-DIYAR, the Syrian foreign minister asked: What kind of logic is it that seeks to destroy the Madrid formula, a negotiating formula that has been going on for two years? Weeks and even days before the Israeli-Palestinian agreement was signed, the Israeli officials emphasized, in public and in serious statements during the Washington talks, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's deep commitment to the peace process and a just and comprehensive solution. Al-Shar' added: We have not changed this position, neither before nor after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. It is Israel that has started to change its tone and put forth new conditions that had already been precluded in the past under the agreement of Syria and Israel to keep up the peace process within the Madrid formula, as well as the U.S. commitment at the highest level to act as a full partner and fair mediator to give impetus to the peace process.

The Syrian Foreign Minister said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent tour of the region and his efforts in this regard were appreciated by the two sides.

Al-Shar' asked: Therefore, what has happened that is new other than Israel's changing of its intentions and eschewing a comprehensive solution? The United States still plays its role and is determined to play the role of a mediator—a role both the Syrian and Israeli sides have asked it to play.

The Syrian Foreign Minister cautioned [nabbaha] the Jordanians against sliding onto the wrong road leading to unilateral solutions. He said: We believe Jordan has no interest in following a unilateral path, because this will complicate the situation in Jordan instead of leading to stability. Al-Shar' said: In any case, this is the viewpoint of the majority of the political forces in Jordan.

In the course of expressing his view on new Israeli-Jordanian preparations for negotiations, the Syrian minister said that if we have cautioned against the dangers of [such an Israeli move to isolate Jordan, we have done so out of Syria's concern that Jordan will not be exposed to anything that will affect its security and stability as a fraternal and neighboring country. This is because if Israel also deals with Jordan unilaterally, this will reflect on the comprehensiveness of the solution. Comprehensiveness is a guarantee of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, peace which assures security, stability, and prosperity for all.

Therefore, Syria does not believe that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will lead to complete peace between them. The Syrian Foreign Minister told AL-DIYAR: There are many difficulties. This agreement will also face several major obstacles.

Al-Shar' said: Perhaps this agreement will not be implemented for 10 years. He expressed the belief that there are obstacles which will make Israel go back on several essential issues that were left for the coming stage. Negotiations on these issues could last for tens of years—that is, more than 10 years. According to him, the reason for these difficulties is that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has left the door open to the unknown. The strong will impose on the weak whatever he wants during the passage of this agreement down the long, dark tunnel of the negotiating process.

Therefore, according to Al-Shar', Syria's policy in this difficult and delicate phase is to uphold its principles while maintaining flexibility and to be courageous without embarking on adventures or ignoring the Arab and international situation. Wisdom reigns supreme in Syria's position first and foremost.

There is a belief in Damascus that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has given Syria a new responsibility. Foreign and Arab states are now dealing with Syria on the basis that it has become the focus of the Palestinian and Arab issue.

The burden has become heavy in this current phase, which is still marked by ambiguity. The outcome of this phase depends on the seriousness of Israel's stand on the Madrid formula and its response to the requirements for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

On this premise, Syria also believes that the duration of the negotiations will depend on how they respond to and act according to the bases and rules of the Madrid formula for a comprehensive solution, the land for peace principle, and the implementation of the UN Resolutions.

Hence, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told AL-DIYAR, the lifting the Arab oycott of goods and companies that deal with Israel is out of the question. This was confirmed during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia and during contacts with some Arab states. The lifting of the Arab boycott is out of the question without the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the region. The Arab states will not agree to lift the boycott without the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution. Al-Shar' said: This is what I felt in Saudi Arabia, where they affirmed their stance on the side of Syria and on the side of a comprehensive and just solution based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions.

Damascus seemed satisfied with British Foreign Secretary Hurd's visit, as the British and Syrian views were identical on the principles of the Madrid Conference, which call for a comprehensive settlement. Al-Shar' emphasized that after hearing the Syrian views, Hurd realized the need for a comprehensive and fair solution in accordance with the Madrid formula. Al-Shar' disclosed that the British foreign secretary was also convinced of Syria's view that there should be no new rounds of talks as a precaution against any surprises in Washington unless the talks can make the desired progress. At the same time, resumption of the bilateral peace talks in Washington should not be delayed for more than a few weeks.

Al-Shar' regarded the British foreign secretary's visit as important because Britain is an important European country and an ally and friend of the United States. Moreover, the British officials know more than the other Western nations about the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the magnitude of the usurped Arab rights. Al-Shar' said: We believe that this is not an age of exercising oppressive force, and that Israel, which occupies the territories of others by force, sooner or later will not be able to ignore the peace process.

On whether the establishment of peace would negatively affect the fate of the Arab world, its national identity, and regional status, the Syrian foreign minister said: "In our opinion, a peace that does not generate apprehension and fear would be a comprehensive, fair, and honorable peace." He added that the peace that would cause apprehension and fears would be one that involves separate and unilateral settlements with each Arab party, because it would sow doubts among the Arab countries and turn them into obstacles to inter-Arab cooperation. Such a peace would be dangerous because it would not give anyone peace, security, or stability. He denied that peace will be imposed on the Arabs as long as they maintain their stands, constants, decisionmaking, and ability to move.

Al-Shar' expressed his satisfaction with continuing Syrian-Lebanese coordination regarding the Arab-Israeli negotiations and the unequivocal position adopted by Prime Minister al-Hariri's government. He said that there are attempts to drag Lebanon into separate agreements but that these attempts are futile because progress in solving the Golan issue will complement a solution to the occupation of southern Lebanon. He said that the attempt to work out a separate settlement with Lebanon and disassociate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks have not succeeded and will not succeed for practical, historical, and realistic reasons. In addition, the cosponsors of the negotiations are convinced that it is not feasible to separate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Moreover, the European countries and the Arab countries show understanding of this issue and support the Syrian views on the need to adhere to the foundations of the solution.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' therefore returned last week after meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and State Department officials—primarily Secretary of State Warren Christopher—full of confidence that the U.S. officials understand and support the Syrian stand on the constants of negotiations. The Syrian leadership regarded the latest visit by envoy Dennis Ross as a test, whereas the Israelis described the visit as technical. Ross' tour was a prelude to Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to the Middle East in the middle of November. That visit will determine the fate of the 12th round of talks in light of a serious Israeli stand on the negotiations process. Al-Shar' sees no problems in the U.S. stand or in the positions of the two cosponsors or the European countries, particularly British Foreign Secretary Hurd, who, during his talks in Damascus two days ago, showed understanding of the Syrian position and constants and that they serve the peace process in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' believes that Syria and Lebanon are one party in the conflict. This is true even though each party has a role that might differ on the nature and dimensions of the future peace process. He also believes that any miscalculation of the fact that Lebanon needs Syria and Syria needs Lebanon may lead to serious mistakes that would harm the Lebanese people. He said that fortunately President Clinton's Administration is following Bush's initiative. He expressed confidence that the current U.S. Administration has adhered to Bush's initiative. President Hafiz al-Asad received a written message emphasizing this adherence. He said that the U.S. officials assured him orally of this adherence during his meetings in Washington where they have adopted the rules and bases for negotiations and were there is an interest and a surge to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said that naturally this U.S. position is motivated by a real U.S. interest in achieving peace and stability in the region. They realize from previous experience that unilateral solutions do not establish peace or stability. After the Palestinian-Israeli agreement there may be differences in the U.S. and Israeli views on the future steps to assure the success of the peace process according to the Madrid Conference formula. He said that there are no differences between Syria and the United States over this point. Al-Shar' added: This appears odd, in that Israel cannot disrupt the U.S. strategy in the region should they conflict with one another.

Al-Shar' said that this does not mean that we should not exert efforts and caution public opinion about the importance of a comprehensive solution. On the contrary, in order to enable the advocates of a comprehensive solution to succeed, there should be considerable international political and diplomatic cooperation and intensive efforts, particularly by the United States, the cosponsors of the Madrid Conference, and the EC. He said that Lebanon and Syria should be in the forefront of the Arab countries making efforts. They should caution all fraternal Arab countries against falling into the Israeli trap and not falling into the Israeli strategy that only serves Israel's interests at the expense of the Arab ones.

Al-Shar' said that he noticed that since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the Israeli government is trying to convince the world, particularly the Arabs, that the Palestinian issue has been solved, that peace has been established, that the borders should be opened, that the boycott should be ended, and that relations should be established and normalized. He pointed out that this is a major Israeli deceit. Israel is trying to fool the Arabs in a naive and ludicrous way. He said that Israel should know that the Arabs have encountered difficult setbacks and differences during the past few years, particularly during the Gulf war. But they have not lost their minds though they have lost some of their power and solidarity. However, they have not lost their concepts and their suspicions about Israel's intentions and ambitions.

Al-Shar' said the Israelis are obviously trying to convince the United States and the European countries that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has curtailed the Israeli government's ability to initiate moves on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts for a comprehensive solution on the basis of land for peace. He added that this is another Israeli trick involving a great deal of misleading, deception, and maneuvering, because realistically speaking the PLO has made quite a few concessions to Israel, particularly in delaying the settlement of the basic issues until a final stage, a stage that might continue indefinitely. This Israeli move should be foiled.

Al-Shar' said that this situation has increased rather than decreased Yitzhaq Rabin's government's popularity inside Israel; and, consequently, if Israel is serious about promoting the peace process and a comprehensive solution, the domestic conditions are now better than they were before the agreement with the Palestinians. He noted that the Rabin government said that it cannot carry more than one burden. This statement is not based on fact nor is it in line with the current realities, because advancing the peace process on more than one track will give the process momentum and ease the burdens. It is unlike war, when fighting on more than one front would increase the burden.

Al-Shar' drew attention to another point. He said: When we went to Madrid, Israel did not say either explicitly or implicitly that if it made progress on one of the four tracks, it would stop for a long period to rest and digest what it achieved. He added: If this was the concept of the two cosponsors and the Arab parties, the Madrid conference would not have been convened nor would there have been any need to convene it.

The Syrian Foreign Minister said: Consequently, this makes us conclude that by changing its strategy Israel wants to distance itself from a comprehensive solution and concentrate on unilateral solutions with each Arab party.

Al-Shar' said: In our view, Israel's policy can convince no one that it cares about security and stability of the region. This is because unilateral solutions naturally create suspicions among the Arab parties, even though they might not say so. He also said: Any stability reached according to the Israeli criteria of the peace process will not achieve security and stability in the region. If the Arabs have doubts about the results of a separate peace, such a peace will not ensure the promised stability and prosperity.

Al-Shar' continued: We will consider it a serious matter if Israel does not benefit from recent experience and if it is proved that Israel will not return soon to serious talks in Washington to reach a comprehensive solution on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The Syrian foreign minister said: All those with whom we have spoken, including our Arab brothers, the Europeans, and the cosponsors of the conference—especially the United States—have not stated that our stand is not correct or inaccurate or that it might obstruct the peace process.

He added: Therefore, we consider that Syria's policy is clear and understood by all those concerned with achieving a real, just, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This policy is greatly appreciated. All the Arab and foreign delegations that have met with President Hafiz al-Asad have emerged with a clear conviction that Syria's analysis is correct and that Syria is really serious about pursuing the peace process on the basis of the Madrid formula, the land for peace principle, and the implementation of the UN resolutions. Israel can convince no one that peace has been established and that we must search for other formulas than the Madrid formula.

Al-Shar' said: All those who have met with President al-Asad and listened to his statements and even those who have not met with al-Asad but who closely watch Syria's policy clearly realize that there can be no peace without Syria.

Al-Shar' added: Within this context, it is sufficient to say that the whole world is convinced that there can be no peace without Syria. Only the Israeli government is saying and trying to act as if peace can be established without Syria. This in itself is enough to prove that Israel's concept of peace is on one side and Syria's and the whole world's concept of peace is on the other side.

Regarding the statement he made during his recent visit to Egypt about the emergence of positive factors in the negotiations with Israel, which gave rise to positive speculation about the possibility of an imminent agreement, al-Shar' told AL-DIYAR that the Israeli media misrepresented what he meant and had expressed clearly during the visit.

Al-Shar' told AL-DIYAR: If Israel believes it has scored a big victory by signing the agreement with the Palestinians, if it thinks it has swallowed a big enough morsel to make it feel that it does not have to follow up the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and if it also imagines that peace has come and that several Arab states have begun to deal with it and normalize relations with it, this will lead to serious negative effects on the Palestinian track and the region as a whole.

He added: If Israel realizes that no peace or normalization can be achieved without a comprehensive solution and if it also realizes that it has achieved a minimum of success through its agreement with the PLO, but that it is an initial solution that must have a serious follow-up on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, then this will be [words indistinct].

U.S. Assurances Received 'With Satisfaction'

JN3010094093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on U.S. President Bill Clinton's assurances on the establishment of peace in the Middle East. TISHRIN notes that the United States, as demonstrated by the statements that were made by President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, has begun to feel that the Rabin government is seeking to disperse Arab ranks in order to topple the U.S. initiative forever and to push the peace process to a dead end. This is what has prompted the highest authority in the U.S. Administration to reiterate its commitment to peace process, to stress the need to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region, and to reaffirm that there can be no peace without Syria.

TISHRIN says: Syria has received these clear U.S. assurances with satisfaction, as it did with earlier assertions by the United States to the effect that it would act as a full partner and an honest broker in the talks. At the same time, Syria is expecting Washington to support its words with deeds. It views any instance of going back on these pledges, no matter how insignificant it may be, as a first step toward the further retreat that the Israeli government seeks to effect in the U.S. position. This would be done by convincing the U.S. Administration of the difficulty of Rabin's domestic situation or of his inability to convince the Israeli people to work on more than one agreement with the Arabs at the same time. Israeli may even ask the U.S. administration to convey these stands, which contradict the concept of a comprehensive peace, to the Arabs.

TISHRIN adds that the comprehensive peace that the Arabs hope to achieve in the region does not in any way mean moving fast on a certain track and stalling another or all other tracks, as is happening now after the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the pretext that time is needed to digest an agreement or to peddle a treaty. Certainly, the objective [words indistinct] is to effect simultaneous progress on all fronts, even though at various rates. This is because any attempt to hamper such progress aims at dispersing Arab ranks, dealing with each Arab party unilaterally, and pushing the Arabs to adopt specific stands, after which Israel would hold the Arabs responsible for the collapse of the peace process.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Therefore, the United States, as a full partner and an honest broker, should adopt a specific stand on these Israeli gimmicks. It should make Israel understand that the peace process is an indivisible whole, that any imbalance in this equation will necessarily lead to the collapse of the entire peace process, and that Syria is the most important party in this equation.

Afghanistan

President Denies Link With Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman

JN2910092693 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 19 Oct 93 pp 1, 5

[Report by Hamid Bu-Yabis: "Special to the ARAB TIMES"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, Oct. 18: Afghanistan denied on Monday that it was backing the so-called fundamentalist terrorism currently sweeping a number of Arab and Islamic countries.

President Borhanoddin Rabbani, who paid a two-day visit to Kuwait as part of a Gulf tour, said his country has no relation whatsoever with the exiled Egyptian fundamentalist leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. He said Afghanistan is ready to contribute in any effort to resolve the problem.

"This is absolutely baseless" Rabbani said in response to a question that Afghanistan was harbouring and sponsoring terrorism. "The Afghan Mojahedin have opposed terrorism for 14 years. We were capable of resorting to such tactics like hijacking planes, attacking Soviet interests or even assassinating members of the former Afghan government. We voluntarily avoided that," said Rabbani in an exclusive interview with the ARAB TIMES.

"We had opposed terrorism in the past and we still oppose it. But countries facing terrorism-related troubles should analyse its causes as internal problems. In this context and in order to avoid misunderstanding, I would like to stress on the good relations between our country and Egypt," said Rabbani in an apparent reference to reports linking Afghanistan with terrorism in some Arab and Islamic countries.

"We exchanged visits with Egyptian officials and we have assured Egyptians that Afghanistan has no relation whatsoever with the Egyptian Islamic leader Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman," Rabbani stressed. It was reported that the United States was about to deport the blind leader of the Islamic Group. Rabbani said Afghanistan is ready to contribute in solving the problems if it could.

He said that young men from Arab and Islamic countries joined the forces of the Afghan Mojahedin though we had repeatedly told that we never needed fighters. "We told them we only needed humanitarian aid and support as the number of Mojahedin was too large. Those men returned to their countries and now they are responsible by their governments and not by Afghanistan. We have no responsibility on these men," stressed the Afghan President.

Claims

Rabbani said his country is adopting a balanced policy in dealing with its neighbours brushing aside claims that Iran is enjoying a big say on his government. "Our policy is based on non-interference in other country's internal affairs. Afghans consists of Sunni and Shia Muslims and so are our neighbours. This does not mean that we can not be united because of differences in sects. Any neighbouring country willing to support us is welcome but not as a country with a certain tendency. We are willing to establish good relations with all our neighbours, including the Islamic Republic of Iran." [passage omitted]

Amnesty Report on Human Rights Rejected

LD3010193593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Amnesty International's report on human rights in Afghanistan has been published by the mass media of some countries. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] commentator writes:

In its report for 1993, Amnesty International says on page 47 on Afghanistan that when the new government seized power thousands of people were released from the Pol-e Charkhi prison and that a general amnesty was declared for officials of the former government and members of the ruling party. This amnesty was implemented completely.

This report also states some things which do not reflect the reality of the situation in Afghanistan. [passage indistinct] The leadership of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [words indistinct] considers itself obliged to protect the freedom and dignity of all its (?citizens). Over the past year, no one has been detained because of their political views or their association with a political, religious, or language group. Afghanistan could possibly be the only country in the world which has no detainees charged with political activities.

It is true that the existence of various armed groups could bring about violations of human rights. The firing of rockets against the Islamic State last year and the continuation of fighting has led to the martyrdom of, and much pain to, a large number of residents of the city of Kabul. Our country's leadership started talks to stop the killing of people by our opponents, and set up a relatively broad based government. The Islamic State of Afghanistan announced that all weapons should be surrendered to the Defense Ministry, and that elections should be held about the country's future structure. It called upon the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to supervise these elections. [Passage indistinct]

A commission has been appointed to draft a provisional press law to remove previous obstacles in the way of press freedom. Right now, many nongovernmental and independent publications are printed as well as state publications.

All these considerations demonstrate an improvement in the human rights situation in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, instead of investigating for himself in Afghanistan, Amnesty International's reporter acquired his information from people outside the country. Therefore, instead of giving a complete picture of the situation, the Amnesty reporter's account is often incorrect, and he has interpreted the objective problems inflicted on our country by the opponents of the Islamic State as cases of human rights violations.

As in the past, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is doing everything it can to ensure the unconditional return of refugees, and within the limits of its capabilities is providing them with the means to live. Fortunately, the number of those returning to their homeland is increasing, and so far about 1 million refugees have returned to the homeland.

Bangladesh

Communications Minister Returns From PRC Visit

BK3010023093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The communications minister, Mr. Oli Ahmed, returned to Dhaka last night after a 10-day visit to China. During the visit, Mr. Ahmed held separate talks on different issues with the Chinese leaders. They included vice prime minister, Zou Jiahua; railway minister, Han Zhubin; communications minister, Huang Zhendong; and minister for foreign trade and economic cooperation, Tian Runzhi. Mr. Oli Ahmed also visited the Chinese railway locomotive industry.

Cooperation Pact Signed With Iran

BK2910131593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Bangladesh and Iran have signed a memorandum of understanding for closer bilateral cooperation in the fields of economic, commercial, rural development, and manpower. It [word indistinct] at a two-day (?first) session of Bangladesh-Iran Joint Commission in Dhaka Thursday. Leader of Bangladesh delegation Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and Leader of Iranian Delegation Minister for Rural Development and Reconstruction G.R. Foruzesh [as heard] signed the memorandum of understanding. The joint commission also identified projects both in private and public sectors to be financed either through a joint venture or with assistance from the Iranian Government. Both sides agreed to consider recommendations of three subcommittees on agriculture, rural development, fisheries, trade, industry, culture, science and technology, human resource development, and manpower. The Iranian delegation left Dhaka for Tehran Thursday night.

Dhaka Deplores 'Nonreligious' Use of Hazratbal

BK3110161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Bangladesh has deplored and condemned the use of places of worship for dumping of arms or any other nonreligious purpose. Referring to the Hazratbal mosque situation, the Bangladesh foreign secretary, Mr. Reaz Rahman, said in Dhaka today that his government has always been against the misuse of places of worship. He hoped an amicable solution to the situation in the shrine will be worked out through dialogue.

India

U.S. Official's Remarks on Kashmir Denounced

Charge d'Affaires Summoned

BK2910160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi today conveyed its strong feelings to the United States on the statement of a senior American official questioning the validity of Kashmir's accession to India. Perceiving the remarks as a studied tilt toward Pakistan, official sources in New Delhi said this will not be helpful in beginning a dialogue to normalize relations between India and Pakistan. The U.S. charge d'affaires, Mr. Kenneth Brill, was called to the Foreign Office this evening to convey the reaction.

The sources said the background briefing by the U.S. assistant secretary, Miss Robin Raphael, to the press in Washington yesterday is most disconcerting, as it has a fundamental and direct bearing on India's vital interests. New Delhi does not recall any such articulation on Kashmir at the senior level of the U.S. administration. The statement has far-reaching legal and political implications. New Delhi wants to know whether the U.S. Government's intention is to question India's independence act or territorial unity and integrity of India.

Expressing regret that such a statement has been made when a highly complicated situation prevails in Jammu and Kashmir, official sources pointed out the delicate exercise now on to persuade the militants in the Hazratbal Shrine to return to reason and compromise.

India is also surprised that Miss Raphael's statement has played down the role of Pakistan's continued support to terrorism and subversion in Jammu and Kashmir. This is also inconsistent with the recent exchanges between New Delhi and Washington. The sources said that India is disappointed that Miss Raphael has characterized these exchanges in terms which do not help in resolving the situation. Such one-sided statements can only encourage obdurate elements. The sources said that the U.S. official's statement will be viewed by people in India as biased and incongruent with Indo-U.S. relations.

Comments 'Severely Criticized'

BK3010130493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Several political parties and leaders have severely criticized the remarks of a senior American official questioning the accession of Kashmir to India. The former minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Natwar Singh, said that for any one to question Kashmir's accession to India is as ridiculous as questining the historical acquisition of Louisiana and Alaska and the Islands of Hawaii by the United States. He hoped that the views expressed by the official, Miss Robin Raphael, was her personal opinion and not those of the Clinton Administration.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has termed the Washington's stand as an amazing shift and said it is a totally unwarranted and unacceptable interference in our internal affairs. In a joint statement, the party's general secretary, Mr. Krishan Lal Sharma; Vice President Mr. K.R. Malkani and others accused the United States of vitiating the spirit of the Simla Agreement. They said this will not improve India-Pakistan relations and will only result in affecting India-U.S. ties.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] reiterated that the state of Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India within the framework of the Indian Independence Act. The Instrument of Accession was properly signed as laid down in the act. In a statement, the party also said the U.S. action is part of a deliberate plan to aggravate tensions in the subcontinent and establish its hegemony.

The Janata party president, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, said the accession of Kashmir to India is as solid and legal as that of Texas and New Mexico to the United States.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] said the Clinton Administration has even abandoned its plan that the Simla Agreement can be the basis for bilateral negotiations to solve the problem.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh [State] Congress-I Committee described the remarks as uncalled-for interference in India's internal affairs.

The Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party president, Professor Bhim Singh, also criticized the remarks of the U.S. official as interference in the internal affairs of India.

Delhi 'Perturbed' at Remarks

BK3110032193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi says it does not accept anyone's right to question the status of Kashmir as an integral part of India. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, expressed surprise that even the validity of the instrument of accession is being questioned now. This instrument flows from the legislation on which the present political dispensation of the subcontinent was established in 1947. Mr. Singh said the world has not questioned for almost half a century the legality of the Indian Independence Act passed by the British Parliament and said from this only flowed the instrument of accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India.

Responding to a query, Mr. Dinesh Singh categorically stated that India will not brook any outside interference in Kashmir. He said the Indian public opinion is perturbed about statements on Kashmir from Washington. These come just as it appeared that armed militants inside the Hazratbal shrine were about to release the civilian hostages held by them. These signals could encourage the continued confrontation not only in Kashmir but all over. As already reported, several leaders and political parties strongly condemned the U.S. remarks on Kashmir.

'Dangerous' U.S. Stance Seen

BK3110040993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Commentary by journalist S.C. Bhatt "on Indira Gandhi and National Integration"]

[Text] The threat to India's national unity and integrity has been increasing. Divisive forces at home and anti-Indian elements abroad both constitute the danger that has not declined, but grown with the years. As the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi is observed once again, we cannot do better than remember that this danger exists and resolve to meet it squarely. The freedom movement had helped us to forge strong bonds of unity because the people's patriotic sentiments were involved. The wise men and women who led us during those days also stressed to keep the picture of India as one nation before them.

It is not possible to deny that the sentiment has suffered considerable erosion in the years of independence. Sectional feelings have come up and political parties have exploited them rather than strengthen the forces of unity. Yet, the heart of India beats in unison and the moment a threat is perceived to the nation from outside, the spirit of oneness comes to the fore. The dangerous American stance on Kashmir is the latest example. We have to realize that a grave threat is posed to our unity as a nation by the American policy which wants us to treat a part of India as a disputed territory. Not only that, Kashmir represents to the people of this country the epitome of India's commonness of a nation standing together.

In 1965, when Pakistan let loose its armed men in the guise of infiltrators, Mrs. Gandhi, who was only a minister in Lal Bahadur Shastri's cabinet, visited Kashmir and went up to the difficult hilly regions to demonstrate her solidarity with the people there. As prime minister, she went from one foreign country to another to rouse public opinion against the cruel and inhuman behavior of the Pakistani Army against the people of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Ten million of them had come as refugees to this country. Mrs. Gandhi's firmness resulted in those people going back to their home and Bangladesh becoming a free country.

We have to ensure that at home, sectional and political goals do not override the major national objective of Indian unity. This is easier said than done. But we can forget the basic truth only at a peril. The threat comes not only from communal forces of all hues, but also from regional and linguistic jingoism and overemphasis on sectional demands. The external threats should help us to see that unless we close our ranks, outsiders are standing ready to take advantage of divisions among us.

Article Views Clinton Statement on Kashmir

BK3010060893 Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Oct 93 p 5

[Article by Ghazanfar Butt]

[Text] President Bill Clinton has included Kashmir among the areas where "bloody ethnic, religious and civil wars rage". While he did not make any value judgment on Kashmir, he included it among the crisis spots of the world.

A U.S. State Department official has stated that the President's statement should not be blown out of proportion. He said that the inclusion of Kashmir in the speech was a "rhetorical device" and that there has been no change or shift in the policy of the U.S. Administration on the Kashmir issue. Even so, one may ask: Should the statement cause concern in India? Should it be interpreted as a prelude to any pressure that U.S. may bring to bear on India on Kashmir problem or on India's stand on the nuclear nonproliferation treaty?

Clinton's statement need not have caused much surprise in India. During the last three years, Pakistan has succeeded in spreading disinformation through its front organisations that human rights are being violated in the Kashmir Valley and that the security forces are guilty of committing atrocities and that no action has been taken against them. Pakistan has also hired advertising firms abroad who have sent media mercenaries to record manufactured evidence to project how India is using brutal force in the State. The latest example is of four persons who visited Kashmir as tourists, but once in Srinagar, styled themselves as CNN representatives.

Information is that a separatist leader of the Valley was paid a handsome amount to organize demonstrations where anti-India slogans could be raised, and allegations of brutality made against the security forces. Two of the tourists were U.S. nationals—Paul John Manafort Jr. and Ms. Karen Levinson. Karen Levinson gave her employers name as Burson Marsellar, an advertising and public relations firm. Manafort was a consultant with a well-known lobbyist firm in U.S. called Black Manafort Stone and Kelly. New Delhi office of the CNN strongly denied that they had anything to do with them.

India's case on Kashmir needs to be told and retold time and again, if we are to neutralise Pakistan's efforts at spreading disinformation. How many people in India know that Jammu and Kashmir was one of the 560-odd princely states which acceded either to India and Pakistan at independence, and no plebiscite was held to determine the future of those States? How many people know that India which took the case to the United Nations, succeeded in convincing the world body that Pakistan was the aggressor and that a plebiscite was to be held only Pakistan vacated its aggression?

When repeated efforts to get Pakistan vacate its aggression failed, the Jammu and Kashmir Government convened a constituent assembly, adopted a constitution and the people of the State participated in all elections held in the country. [sentence as published]

Is the world aware that the trouble in the State is confined to the Valley, which is the smallest part of the State and the separatist demands do not evoke sympathy in mountain areas adjoining the Valley or the most populous Jammu region, or geographically the largest, Ladakh.

Pakistan has stoked the fires in the Kashmir Valley and alleges that it is India which is not interested in dousing the fires.

As far as violation of human rights are concerned, and allegation of excesses against the security forces are concerned, we should allow the record to speak for itself. Many security force officers in the Kashmir Valley read with interest the statement made by the U.S. Quick Reaction Force in Somalia, who said that he did see the UN forces being fired at from behind a group of women and children, but he had no choice but fire a salvo from the helicopter gunships at the group. Too bad that they were killed—over a hundred of them.

Maj. Stockwell, the UN spokesman, said the women and children were a real threat to the soldiers and they were throwing grenades at UN soldiers. The story looks familiar. In an incident at Sopore, the casualty was 40 odd killed, Lal Chowk - 4, Daribal - 3. These were the three major incidents of 'excesses' in 1993.

Next, about Kashmir being a Muslim cause. Out of a total of 120 million Muslims in India, their population in the State was about four million in the 1981 census, of which three-fourths live in the Valley. Just because Pakistan has stoked the fires of discontent and waged a proxy war, does it become a Muslim cause?

That is why, Iran, when the Prime Minister visited Tehran, agreed that Kashmir is an internal problem of India, but only said that it should be solved amicably so that India's relations with Islamic countries are not affected.

Much more than that the U.S. would know as an active democracy—as to what would be acceptable to the people of India. The bottom line has been stated repeatedly by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao—that Jammu and Kashmir shall remain an integral part of India—but more autonomy can and will be provided to the people of that State. Certainly, it will be much more than the "self-rule" given to the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho.

Let us see what is acceptable to the people of Pakistan themselves. An Urdu daily from Pakistan, Khabren reported on September 18 that U.S. has suggested a formula which envisaged merger of Ladakh and Jammu areas in India, Gilgit and Baltistan in Pakistan and the Valley to be an autonomous region. The report coincided with the visit to Pakistan—including Gilgit—of General Hoar, Chief of the U.S. Central Command and that of Premier Qayyum Khan of PoK [Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir] to USA. The reaction in Pakistan was sharp. Gen. Hoar was called an unwelcome visitor.

The political process should then be able to take firm roots again in the State.

Air India, El Al Sign Flight Accord

BK3010040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Air India and Israel Airlines [El Al] have signed an agreement allowing flight operations in each other's countries from next month. Both India and Israel are also to sign a full-fledged trade agreement shortly. This was stated by the Israeli ambassador, Mr. Efrayim Dowek, at a press conference in Hyderabad yesterday. He said that the agreement will ensure 3 billion dollar trading between the two countries and will touch 300 million dollars at the end of the current year.

Further on Negotiations To End Kashmir Siege

BK3110155893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, another round of direct negotiations between the militants holed up inside the Hazratbal shrine and the civil authorities was held this afternoon. The negotiations continued for about 45 minutes. Details of the talks are not available. A medical officer again went inside the shrine today and gave medicine to those who wanted treatment.

Meanwhile, the only woman inside the shrine came out of it around 1030 this morning. Security forces handed her over to the civil authorities. So far, 10 persons have come out of the shrine. The sub area commander, Brigadier S.P.S. Kanwar, told newsmen that food was supplied inside the shrine twice yesterday. The former Sardar-i-Riyasat [state leader] of Jammu and Kashmir State and former union minister, Dr. Karan Singh, visited the Hazratbal shrine area this afternoon. The Panther's Party president, Professor Bhim Singh, accompanied him.

An official spokesman in Jammu has ridiculed Pakistan's electronic media for highlighting concocted and imaginary incidents in Jammu and Kashmir. He said names of places with imaginary encounters are also being given in a similar manner. He said Pakistan's electronic media had put out a story yesterday which said that three security personnel were killed by the militants in Bhagwanpura town of Doda District whereas there is no town by that name in the district. He regretted that abusive language is being used by the government-controlled media in Pakistan to whip up communal passions in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere after its game plan in Hazratbal shrine was exposed by the timely action of the administration.

'Fresh Initiative' Taken

BK3110092893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, authorities are trying to break the stalemate over the Hazratbal Shrine through a fresh initiative. Previous negotiators have failed to make any headway in the negotiations and dissociated themselves. The security cordon around the shrine is continuing. Authorities have been making appeals to the militants over loudspeakers to come out or at least to release the women, children, the aged, and the sick. So far, nine persons have come out.

Minorities Commission member and eminent professor of philosophy Mr. M.S. Advani has said that government has acted with great restraint in preserving the sanctity of the Hazratbal Shrine. Speaking to our correspondent in Udayapur, Professor Advani said it is India's internal matter and any statement or view expressed by any other country amounts to improper interference.

Direct Talks Continue

BK0111125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, direct negotiations are on between the militants and the chief negotiator, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, to resolve the Hazratbal shrine crisis peacefully. The state additional chief secretary, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, told newsmen this afternoon that the security forces are exercising maximum restraint despite provocations from vested quarters. He said the people have understood the game plan of the militants and the state government has again appealed to the militants to come out of the shrine. The state DG [director general], police, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, said that curfew is now in force only in the areas around the shrine.

Bhutto Urged To Help End Siege

BK3010110593 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 21 Oct 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Does Benazir Really Want Friendship"]

[Text] The prospects of Benazir Bhutto becoming the Pakistan prime minister brightened after the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly last week. Though Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party [PPP] failed to get an overwhelming majority in recent general elections, it has been able to win the support of several independent MPs and those belonging to other parties. This will, perhaps, shatter the aspirations of Nawaz Sharif to be installed as prime minister. However, nothing can be said with certainty until the election for the prime minister is held. Before even being formally sworn in as prime minister, Bhutto had started receiving congratulatory messages from home and abroad. In the past, it was seen that though Bhutto was democratically elected she had to quit as prime minister due to the manipulations of the army. But the neutrality maintained by the armed forces during the recent general elections is, no doubt, a positive sign. But, the fact is that under the present situation the army cannot remain unconcerned about the center of power in the country. Whoever comes to govern must be aware of it. Bhutto, intelligent and politically experienced, is very well aware of this. Perhaps, she will be happy if the army does not directly interfere in government affairs.

Benazir Bhutto has been voted into power at a time when the country is in a severe crisis. The country has several domestic problems. There is no peace in its four provinces. Political rivalries and group clashes have become a regular feature. The law and order situation is also at the lowest ebb. The country has also become economically crippled due to its desperate attempts to manufacture nuclear weapons. Because of this, the country has been cornered internationally. Pakistan has been forsaken by its old ally, the United States. It is also not achieving any success by fomenting trouble in India. Instead, it is paying the price of this mischief. The Pakistan Government is being widely criticized for abetting militancy in India and for being unable to check drug trafficking. The new government will have to make moves to improve ties with the U.S. At least, it should take measures so that it will not be branded as a state sponsoring terrorism. It may be mentioned that the new prime minister should give priority to these issues in her future plans and programs. Pakistan was in an advantageous position till the collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union. Bhutto understands very well that the situation has changed. During the Soviet era, the U.S. used to shower blessings on Pakistan. But now it will have to make serious efforts to win U.S. favor.

Bhutto has sought the cooperation of her rival Nawaz Sharif and his party in running the government affairs. If Sharif extends his cooperation then it could be said that better days are ahead for the future of democracy in Pakistan.

Another obstacle in the path of Bhutto's success is Pakistan's ties with India. It is in the interest of both sides that these ties be developed. The governments of both the countries usually forget that peace and tranquility cannot be restored so long as tension prevails along the borders. Bhutto has raised the issue of Kashmir. But the prime minister should think about how far her country is responsible for this situation. Everyone knows that Pakistan is exporting terrorism to India through its military intelligence organization—Inter Services Intelligence [ISI]. Islamabad is implementing the ISI blueprint in India. Will Islamabad be able to face the effects of this terrorism? It is possible for Pakistan to harass India in the United Nations and in the Islamic Conference Organization. But, what will Pakistan gain by doing this? India will surely be in trouble if the militants occupying the Hazratbal Shrine in Kashmir resort to any reckless act. Does Bhutto approve of these activities of Pakistan? Does not Delhi or Islamabad realize that good bilateral relations is essential for the maintenance of peace in South Asia. If Bhutto wants to normalize ties with India she should assist Narasimha Rao in resolving the Hazratbal Shrine tangle. This is a golden opportunity for Bhutto to prove her sincerity in improving ties with India.

Kashmir Governor on Pakistan's 'New Game Plan'

BK3010151893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that Pakistan has formulated a new game plan of burning and desecrating mosques and holy shrines as it has realized that its designs in Kashmir through militancy and terrorism are not going to succeed. Addressing a meeting at Jammu today, the governor referred to the Hazratbal shrine incident and said the government, by timely action, has foiled the militants attempt to steal the holy relics from from the shrine and has exposed the militants and their mentors so-called concern for sanctity of holy places. He said the talks on Hazratbal are in progress and he was hopeful of a peaceful solution very soon. The government paid compliments to the people of Kashmir for not falling into the trap of the militants propaganda.

Iran

Commemoration of U.S. Embassy Seizure Encouraged

Majles Speaker Urges Celebrations

LD3010172193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Majles Speaker ['Ali Akbar] Nateq-Nuri has said that to commemorate 4 November [anniversary of the seizure of U.S. Embassy in Tehran] with the greatest possible splendor is the best and strongest way of responding to people who speak of compromise with the United States.

In a meeting with the members of the central committee of the headquarters of the 4 November ceremonies, the Majles speaker commemorated the day and stressed: By raising the issue of 4 November, we are in fact giving reasons for combatting the United States, and in present circumstances, we must hold the ceremonies with even greater splendor this year.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri stressed: On such occasions as 4 November, we must behave in such a way as to show the world that we are more determined and have a stronger resolve than ever to protect Islam and the revolution. The Majles speaker noted: We must familiarize new generations with the special days of the revolution, and we must always honor the sacred occasions of the revolution so that they will remain alive forever, deliver their message, and be transferred to future generations.

Qom Sermon Extols 'Holy Day'

LD2910173593 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1534 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Qom Friday Prayer Address by Ayatollah Amini Najafabadi, the deputy speaker of the Assembly of Experts—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the coming week, we have the holy day of 4 November, which was the important day when the American [embassy] spy den was seized by our brave Muslim and spirited youth. With this heroic act and their bravery, they broke America's imposing presence and—as if it were—broke its horn. For this reason and on that day the demised imam [Khomeyni]—sanctified be his soul—said: The takeover of the spy den was a revolution higher and more important than the first [anti-Shah] revolution, for if the spy den had remained, it would have been difficult to foresee the fate of our revolution and the system. The students carried out this act, as the result of which it was made clear that they [embassy staff] were spies. It was a blow against America and some American presidents have said: We were humiliated there. Of course, it was good that they were humiliated. The students broke

America's horn and destroyed its imposing presence and—as you now see—the path of struggle against America is level. It began with Islamic Iran and it was valuable work.

This day [4 November] is also the beginning of Education Week and the global day for struggle against world arrogance. It has been named as the global day for struggle against world arrogance, in particular American arrogance. Our people, our heroic ummah [religious community] will definitely participate in demonstrations on 4 November to show their hatred of America and they will, through their deed say: Because America has a treacherous and criminal government, and because it is the enemy of Islam and Muslims, we can never establish relations with such an element, and as our Imam [Khomeyni] has said: Relations between America and Islamic countries is like the relation between the wolf and the lamb. You cannot trust the wolf. God willing, the people will participate in the demonstrations and will state these things. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Urges Meeting on 'Armenian Aggression'

LD2910174493 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] United Nations Headquarters (New York), Oct. 29, IRNA—Deputy Permanent Representative of Iran to the U.N. Gholam Reza Khoshru called on the Security Council on Thursday to convene an urgent meeting on the Armenian aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In his letter to the Security Council, Khoshru also requested necessary measures, including the dispatch of peace-keeping forces to the area, to consolidate the cease-fire and allow for efforts aimed at achieving a just and honourable solution to the conflict.

The recent history of the conflict clearly illustrates that without the active support and involvement of the international community through immediate, serious and effective decision on the part of the Security Council, minor incidents might erupt into another major conflict, warned Khoshru.

Calling as "destabilizing" the developments close to Iran's northwestern borders as a result of the recent escalation in fighting against the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, he announced Iran's full support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

"Local Armenian forces, supported by forces of the Republic of Armenia, are grabbing more lands as they push deeper inside the territory of Azerbaijan. These destabilizing events, close to our northern borders, endanger peace and security of the entire area thus threatening national security of Islamic Republic of Iran," regretted Khoshru.

He voiced Iran's concern about fresh Armenian military offensives and continued occupation of Azeri territory and said Tehran underlines the importance of respect for the cease-fire and the immediate withdrawal of all Armenian forces from the entire occupied territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Iranian official put the number of Azeri citizens to have sought refuge in Iran so far at 30,000 and said that casualties inflicted on the republic as a result of the Armenian offensive are believed to be high.

Khoshru said that Iran has continuously lent its mediation efforts to bring about the cessation of military operations and encouraged both sides to seek peaceful settlement of their disputes.

He said the recent visit of the Iranian president to Azerbaijan gave extraordinary impetus to such mediation and through Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani's personal initiative, military operations were halted as of Wednesday.

Azerbaijan Cease-Fire Discussed

LD3010113793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Our country's ambassador to the United Nations has informed the Security Council that the Islamic Republic of Iran established a cease-fire in the Republic of Azerbaijan by using its influence in the region and will be responsible for maintaining that cease-fire.

The ambassador, Mr. Gholam Ali Khoshru, in a meeting with the president of the Security Council, who is charged with dealing with the Azeri issue, called for a proper reaction by the United Nations, and said: The Security Council must not allow the current cease-fire to be broken, like other cease-fires before it, or the security of the region to be threatened.

During the meeting, our ambassador also called for international relief for the Azerbaijani refugees in Iran.

The president of the Security Council, welcoming Iran's positive efforts in establishing a cease-fire in the region, called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to encourage the involved sides to take part in the coming Minsk conference session, which is planned for 2 November in Vienna.

More Azerbaijanis Seek Refuge in Iran

LD0111142893 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Parsabad-e Moghan, Ardebil Prov., Nov. 1, IRNA—The number of Azeri refugees who have crossed Aras border river in this nothern province to seek refuge in Iran since last week amounted to 32,564 by Sunday midnight, an informed provincial official said here today.

Most of the refugees told IRNA here they had passed Armenian soldiers to reach Iranian borders.

Tens of Azeri refugees drowned while trying to cross Aras, bodies of seven of whom had been handed over to Azeri officials.

Since October 23, the day on when the refugees started entering Parsabad and Khodafarin in this province, 70 have been hospitalized and several others have been transferred to Tabriz and Ardebil.

To render relief supplies to the refugees, the Red Crescent Society of Iran has so far completed two phases of Imishli camp, with a capacity of 10,000 people, as well as Sa'atli and Ara'ali camps, each with a capacity of 5,000, beyond Iranian borders.

A camp close to the 150,000-populated city of Saberabad will accommodate another 10,000 refugees in 2,000 tents as well.

The Azeris, coming to Iran mainly from Zangelan, Minjavan and areas opposite to Iran's Khodafarin, would be received by relief workers for 24 hours and would then be transferred to the camps.

Iran, Azerbaijan Waive Visa Formalities

LD2910174793 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—Visa formalities have been waived for Iranians and Azeri nationals holding valid passports, for travel to the other country.

Based on an agreement signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Tofik Gasimov, Iranians visiting Azerbaijan and Azeris visiting Iran can now reside for a maximum of 15 days without any visa.

The agreement requires Iranian and Azeri nationals to observe rules and principles of the host country during their residence.

Commentary Urges Action on Azerbaijan Crisis

LD2910203993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] What it is important presently is that without a serious measure by the world community, the outlook of an end to the war in Azerbaijan is by no means clear. This is why the spread of the war, stability, and security in the region are exposed to further threats.

Beyond doubt, Yerevan's positive response to Iran's call on the setting up of a cease-fire indicates that suitable grounds for mediatory measures exist. Hence, human logic requires the world community and the United Nations to embark on necessary measures as soon as possible to prevent the spread of war, destruction, and carnage.

Daily: No Solution at UN

LD3110104893 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 31, IRNA—A Persian daily Sunday recommended the Republic of Azerbaijan not to seek for a solution to Azerbaijan-Armenia problem at the U.N. Security Council.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its editorial commented on recent appeals by Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Security Council to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

"The experience in Bosnia has shown that U.N. forces or those of any alien countries would not fight for the sake of a nation. Rather, it is the nation which undertakes the responsibility of safeguarding its own territory," said the article.

The paper said there was a strong doubt whether any breakthrough would be achieved even if Armenia-Azerbaijan dispute was raised at the U.N. Security Council.

The daily expressed concern over the possiblity that dispatch of so-called peace-keeping forces would repeat similar incidents took place in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Somali.

The editorial further commented that the only solution to the said problem was enhancement of political power in Baku and recognition of strong motives to encourage Azeri people to defend their homeland vis-a-vis Armenian aggression. The solution lies in the fact that Azeri people and defending forces should gain necessary motives and support to be encouraged to defend themselves, their prestige and their own land.

Armenia Warned Against 'Force'

LD3110135593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Continuing the policy of using force in order to solve its disputes with Azerbaijan, the Armenian Government is threatening the Caucasian region with further insecurity and has prepared the grounds for other powers' interference in the region's conflicts, which certainly cannot be in the interest of the nations of the region. [passage omitted]

Informed political sources believe that as long as the Armenian Government uses the logic of force and attack, trying to resolve its problems with its neighbors, regional problems will continue to exist, because a solution based on force will not last and will collapse as soon as the balance of power is changed. It is like a hanging rope that will first hang its owner. Germany, under Hitler during the Second World War, used racial motives to annex Austria and resorted to extensive expansionist policies to occupy many countries, but could not manage such a situation with all its power and was forced to accept defeat.

Use of force in the resolution of border conflicts in any region will bring about hatred toward the aggressor, isolate it, and even create hostility against it among other neighbors. [passage omitted]

Also a military defeat at war never ends a crisis, because defeat will incite and mobilize national sentiments and will revive the defeated country, which will cause a change in the military balance. [passage omitted]

The Armenian leaders know better than anyone else that the continuation of aggression against Azerbaijan will not have a happy ending. Foreign support that has changed the military balance today in favor of Armenia can change direction any moment and cause a repeat of the events in Georgia or elsewhere.

Also, the continuation of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan is imposing a heavy burden on the already ailing and powerless Armenian economy, which that country cannot cope with and will result in social and economic crises facing the Armenian Government with instability within its own borders.

Commentary Views President's Central Asia Visit

NC3010091793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's 11-day tour of five countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus ended on Thursday, 28 October, and he and the delegation accompanying him returned to Tehran. During his visit to the newly independent countries of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan, our president was warmly welcomed by the people, the leaders, and high-ranking political and economic officials of the republics, and he was successful in all these places in bolstering peace, security, and bilateral and multilateral relations between our country and the Muslim republics in the north.

The outcome of this valuable effort was the signing of more than 100 agreements and documents in the economic, cultural, and political fields. All these documents can suddenly increase the volume of trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and regional countries by billions of dollars. Of course, this will only be possible if the signed documents are seriously and persistently followed up and if the means for the rapid and effective implementation of the agreements are provided. The implementation of these agreements, which will play a key role in the future of our country's relations with the Muslim-inhabited republics in Central Asia and the Caucasus, calls for comprehensive cooperation among all the supervisory organizations and institutions.

The outcome of our president's visit to the countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus is not only limited to the signing of cooperation agreements. Even though these agreements include almost all the fields of cooperation—namely, industry, trade, transportation, services, education, culture, religion, and politics—they are all part of a greater reality: that the Muslim-inhabited countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus have made an important decision and have seriously and fundamentally decided to revive their longstanding ties with Islamic and Iranian civilization.

After a period of uncertainty, these countries have finally determined that the expansion of relations with Iran will not only ensure their economic and commercial needs but will also ensure regional peace and security, which are the major conditions for the continuation of the revival of their economies.

It seems that the leaders of these republics have fully accepted the message of peace, security, and cooperation that our president carried and have given a positive reply up to a large extent. The warm and candid welcome extended to the Iranian delegation by the people in all the republics was a manifestation of the revival of the historic, religious, and cultural ties between the peoples of these republics and Iran. It shows that the main asset of the Islamic Republic of Iran in these republics is this cultural and historic backbone and that paying attention to it and striving to expand these ties will have outstanding results.

Since regional security in Central Asia and the Caucasus has a uniform meaning and the security of each country is linked with the security of another, cooperation for peace and security is among the most important aspects of the talks between the Iranian president and his delegation with the leaders of Central Asia and the Caucasus, and even though the success achieved by establishing a cease-fire in the Karabakh war calls for more persistent efforts, it is also a manifestation of the importance of the Islamic Republic's security and political role in the region.

At any rate, our president's visit to the Muslim-inhabited countries in the north has greatly increased familiarization with the common points in these countries and the various aspects of social, political, and economic life. The successful outcome of this visit suggests the existence of grounds for the further expansion of relations with these Muslim-inhabited countries.

Friday Prayer Leader Hails Central Asia Tour

LD2910120493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Simultaneous with the martyrdom anniversary of Her Holiness Fatima Zahra [daughter of Muhammad], may peace be upon her, the unity-inspiring Friday prayers were staged throughout the country amid the sorrow and grief of the mourning worshippers. In Tehran, the Friday prayers were led by Ayatollah [Mohammad] Emami-Kashani.

In his sermons, the provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran conveyed his condolences on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of the great lady of Islam, Her Holiness Fatima Zahra, may peace be upon her, and described highlights of her life and deeds. He considered her as a supreme model for Muslims.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani also referred to the visit by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to five Central Asian and Caucasian states. He said: Visiting countries that were dominated and suppressed for 70 years by an atheist and apostate regime has a special meaning and importance. After the destruction of the iron wall, these countries now understand the meaning of religion and Islam very well. In effect, the visit by the president was the crystallization of the profound intellectual, religious, and cultural bonds between the great nation of Iran and the Muslim nations of that region.

The provisional Friday prayer leader of Tehran added: The magnificent welcome that the people of these areas gave to our president served to expose as totally wrong the propaganda that global arrogance wages against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also revealed that the Islamic revolution is moving forward and flourishing.

He continued his sermons by referring to the issue of the world of Islam, and urged the Indian Government to stop its siege of the Hazratbal shrine. He added that such a move would be in the interest of the Indian Government.

He then referred to the weakness of the United Nation in resolving international crises, and said: Not having any regard for the principle of impartiality in dealing with world issues, and being dominated by global arrogance are two factors responsible for that United Nations Organization's failure in resolving international problems.

At the end of his sermons, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani commemorated the 12th Aban [3 November], that is the anniversary of the historical speech against America by Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise. He also commemorated 13th Aban [4 November], which is designated as Students Day.

Paper Calls on Amnesty To Stop 'Interference'

NC3110155993 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial by M. Nikzad: "Amnesty International's Sympathy for Drug Smugglers!"]

[Text] A spokesman for London-based Amnesty International [AI] recently condemned Iran for enforcing strict punitive measures including capital punishment on drug smugglers in Iran. The AI's statement came at a time when international organizations such as the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP) and the Interpol have praised Iran's determination and efforts in combating international drug traffickers. AI is of the opinion that drug traffickers should not be executed!

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, poppy cultivation was banned throughout the country. However, the flow of opium, heroin and other narcotics into Iran, for either the domestic use or transit to European markets, not only continued but even intensified.

The civil war in Afghanistan along with the weakly protected Pakistani western frontiers, specially the Baluchistan Province, contributed to the excessive drug trafficking activities in Iran in 1980s. The Iraqi-imposed war was also instrumental in aggravating this problem because of the preoccupation of the Iranian government with defense issues.

In order to uproot the ever increasing narcotic problem in this country, the Majles ratified the Anti-Narcotics law based on which tough punishments, including long-term imprisonments and death penalty, were introduced for traffickers beginning 1989.

From then onward, a more concerted and effective campaign began which resulted in the seizure of thousands of smugglers. Iranian national security forces' success in combating drug smuggling has been remarkable and internationally praised. It is said that because of Iran's success in checking their operations the international traffickers have changed their transit route to Europe and use some Central Asian Republics and even the Russian Federation, instead.

One of the key factors contributing to Iran's success with respect to curbing narcotic smuggling has been the Anti-Narcotics Law which indeed has no mercy on traffickers whose deadly trade will eventually destroy any community.

The AI should bare in mind that the smugglers in Iran are equipped with firearms including heavy machineguns and rocket propelled grenades (RPG-7) and in a number of cases they have ruthlessly killed members of the Iranian law enforcement personnel as well as civilians who refused to cooperate with them. Thus the government cannot have mercy on murderers and those who violate the basic rights of the people. If AI is so interested in "human rights", it better sends its representatives to Iran to see for themselves how addicts in rehabilitation centers and their family members in society are suffering. Isn't it better for AI not to have sympathy for criminals and smugglers and stop interfering in the internal affairs of Iran?

Radio Views al-Asad-Mubarak Talks, Syrian Stand

NC3110195293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met with his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak in Damascus yesterday, Saturday, after the latter's visit to the United States and France. The Egyptian president briefed President Hafiz al-Asad on the results of his talks with U.S. and French officials, which focused on the Arab-Israeli talks. This visit comes at a time when progress in these talks has stopped. After the 11th round of talks resulted in the secret agreement between the PLO and Israel, and despite all U.S. efforts and attempts to grease the wheel of negotiations, no date for resuming these talks has yet been fixed.

Observers believe that the Egyptian president's recent mediation efforts to remove the obstacles before resuming the talks must be viewed from various perspectives. Egypt, which was in the vanguard of the march for a truce with the Israeli entity, has always sought to encourage the other Arab countries, headed by Syria, to join the Camp David treaty. From another perspective, the Egyptian government carried out this mediation to strengthen its relations with the West, the United States in particular, in order to get more aid and economic and financial help. Egyptian officials say that this active diplomacy in coordination with the United States will achieve important interests for them. The interests and privileges they are dreaming of cannot be gained without coordination with the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Congress. If this is done, they will be able to receive the annual U.S. aid gratis.

The Syrian stand continues to be one of the basic obstacles to President Husni Mubarak's active diplomacy. Syria continues to assert its known principled stands. Its condition for participating in any future negotiations is Israel's announcement that it adheres to the international resolutions as a basis for these negotiations. The truth is that the Zionist entity seeks to hold direct and secret talks with Syria outside the framework of international Resolutions 242 and 338 in order to circumvent them.

Syria has refused to hold talks of this kind with the Zionist entity. It defined its stand clearly and frankly. It affirmed that all Israeli negotiations must take place within the framework of the Madrid conference resolutions. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said at the joint news conference he held yesterday with Husni Mubarak that the Arab countries and Syria are not waiting in line for peace with Israel.

The peace Syria is demanding is a real peace based on the resolutions issued by the Security Council. Syria will not accept a formula that does not contain a commitment to give back the occupied Arab territories fully and comprehensively.

Paper Criticizes 'Weaknesses' in Diplomacy

NC3110193493 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Weakness in Foreign Diplomacy"]

[Text] Last week we received a report from news agencies—and not from IRNA's telexes—on a meeting between the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa in New York. The foreign news agencies claimed that during their talks, the two ministers pursued discussions on the establishment of relations between Tehran and Cairo.

The tone that was used by an informed official source at our Foreign Ministry when denying the report was such that it clearly showed that a meeting had taken place. After this meeting, an Arab-language newspaper claimed that Egypt had made some preconditions for the establishment of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is definitely considered to be a type of planned propaganda exploitation of this meeting. It is also an important warning to our foreign minister to arrange meetings that are well-planned and calculated and not to insist on keeping so much information from our country's political and news officials, thus giving the enemy a free hand in the propaganda exploitation of certain reports.

There are many points that should be studied as far as the allegations of that Arab-language newspaper are concerned. However, the most important point is the principle of this meeting, in view of the current conditions. The whole foreign policy apparatus of a revolutionary country like the Islamic Republic of Iran should realize that in the heat of the collective efforts by Western and Zionist political and propaganda organs as well as efforts by their minions in the Arab world to legitimize 'Arafat's criminal compromise with the regime occupying Jerusalem, a meeting and discussion between the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who has overtly opposed this compromise, with the foreign minister of Egypt, who has been the mentor of such compromises in the Arab world, is meaningless and precisely helps to prepare favorable grounds for the above-mentioned collective efforts. And this is at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran will not establish relations with Egypt as long as Egypt does not disassociate itself from the Camp David accord.

Unfortunately, such grave mistakes are not few in our foreign diplomacy and nothing is being done to prevent them from doing great harm to the Islamic Republic's system. All this points to a weakness in our foreign diplomacy. But keeping the banner of the Islamic revolution high dictates that the quality of our foreign diplomacy must be raised and such incidents prevented.

President Addresses Law Enforcement Commanders

LD3110115693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 93

[Text] At a nationwide gathering of security-intelligence commanders and officials of the Islamic Republic's law enforcement forces this morning, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the maintenance of social tranquillity and security as well as serving the people as valuable sacred acts.

He also stressed the need for the law enforcement forces to increase training and awareness as well as their greater use of equipment and supplies, in order to achieve higher productivity and specialization.

Expressing condolences on the occasion of the mourning period for the honorable lady of Islam, her grace Fatima Zahra, may peace be upon her, the president reemphasized the importance of the law enforcement forces' activities in establishing tranquillity and security for society and people.

He said: Everyone is aware of the efforts and operations of this force, and the people, as well as the officials, appreciate these efforts and activities.

Pointing out the sensitive geographic position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the grave responsibility of the military and the law enforcement forces in guarding the border.

He added: The enemies intend to destroy the tranquillity and security of the country in various ways, including the importation of drugs and the propagation of corruption. But they have failed due to the grace of God and the tireless efforts of the people, the law enforcement forces, and the military.

The president expressed satisfaction with the activities of the law enforcement forces and said: Security in Iran cannot be compared to that of any other country, and this important fact has been made possible through the efforts and activities of the law enforcement forces and other sincere forces loyal to the revolution. The government's second development plan will provide more equipment and will pay greater attention to matters concerning the personnel of this force.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need for a good sense of duty in the armed forces, in particular the law enforcement forces, which are in direct contact with the life and wealth of the people as well as the security of society. He added that there is greater divine reward for graver responsibilities.

Finally, he hoped that the country's law enforcement forces, taking into account the sensitive and delicate nature of their duties, will be successful in providing greater service for the Islamic system and society.

Before the presidential speech, Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Brigadier General Seyfollahi, commander of the law enforcement forces; and Brigadier General Naqdi, security and intelligence commander of the law enforcement forces, reported on the nationwide gathering of security and intelligence commanders and officials of the law enforcement forces and said the aims of the meeting were to formulate the guidelines of the esteemed leader and to increase the level of awareness and training among the law enforcement forces and to draw conclusions from past experiences.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Intelligence Chiefs

LD0111124293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Nov 93

[Text] Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri received officials and commanders in charge of the law enforcement forces' intelligence and counterintelligence today. He stressed the sensitive nature of intelligence and counterintelligence activities and said: The nature of this work dictates that it should be carried out without any kind of bias or prejudice and with delicacy.

As the protectors of the regime and the commander-in-chief [Khamene'i] in the law enforcement forces, you must exercise particular care in your behavior and in dealing with cases. If any force behaves badly and you do not confront it, you will be guilty.

He also stressed the need for avoiding factionalism, intergroup politicking and favoritism. At the beginning of the meeting, Brigadier General Naqdi, the commander of the law enforcement forces' counterintelligence, presented a report about his force's activities.

Letter Critical of Association Ending Activity

NC3110092193

[Editorial Report] Tehran SALAM in Persian on 21 October carries a letter on page three, whose writer requests anonymity, criticizing the Militant Clerics Association. In this letter, the writer asks the newspaper: "First of all, when you call for presence on the scene and for being active, why don't you advise the Militant Clerics Association—whose links with SALAM or vice versa we have not yet understood—that it should not stop its political activities?

"What is the meaning of the news published in your newspaper that the said Association's political committee has decided to temporarily limit its cultural and other activities and to entirely stop its political activities? Doesn't this mean that for the time being it is better for part of the forces of the revolution to limit their presence on the scene?"

In reply, the newspaper writes that the legal proprietor of SALAM [Musavi-Kho'iniha] is regarded as an individual and not as "a member of the Militant Clerics Association, even though he was assigned the post through the insistence and with the approval of the Association." The newspaper adds: "As far as we know, SALAM newspaper is favored by the majority, if not all, of the members of the Militant Clerics Association. But this does not mean that all those members of the Association who favor this newspaper also endorse all of SALAM's stances and activities, and logically speaking SALAM does not expect this. But as to our call for presence on the scene and in the political fields, naturally this is brotherly advice that we will continue to give. However, one point should not be forgotten: stopping the political activities of the Association does not mean that its members have stopped serving the divine system of the Islamic Revolution. It goes without saying that a large majority of these members continue to be active in various areas. What has currently stopped is the collective activities of these members as an Association, and these gentlemen do not consider the current conditions to be favorable for such collective activities. But once again, our advice is that these gentlemen should try to revive the conditions that are necessary for these activities."

Pakistan

Army Officer's Presence in Kashmir Shrine Denied

BK3010141693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Text] Pakistan has strongly refuted the Indian allegation that a Pakistani Army officer is among the people inside the Hazratbal shrine, which has been under siege by Indian security forces for over two weeks. A statement issued by the Foreign Office in Islamabad today says no official of the Pakistan Government is in Indian-held Kashmir, let alone in Hazratbal shrine itself.

The statement called upon the Indian Government to allow representatives of any humanitarian organization such as Amnesty International and the Red Cross or a member of a diplomatic mission to enter the shrine and verify facts. The statement said in their attempt to justify the siege of the holy shrine and gross violation of human rights, Indian authorities had resorted to concocting the presence of a Pakistani officer in the shrine.

Female Journalist Tapped as U.S. Ambassador

BK3010102793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 29 Oct 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 28—The government has decided to appoint Dr Maleeha Lodhi editor of THE NEWS, Rawalpindi as Pakistan's ambassador to the United States of American in place of Ambassador designate M Akram Zaki, who is on leave here.

According to highly placed sources of the Foreign Office the government of Pakistan would seek agreement from the United States for the appointment of Dr Lodhi early next week.

Akram Zaki, former Secretary-General Foreign Affairs, who was appointed ambassador in Washington early this month, returned to Islamabad soon after his posting before he had presented his credential to the US president.

Mr Zaki, who stood retired from service with after from Oct 23 was appointed Pakistan's ambassador to the US after Syeda Abida Hussain had left her assignment as Pakistan's Ambassador to the US.

Begum Syeda Abida Hussain, who served as Ambassador during Nawaz Sharif's government stepped down after the dismissal of the latter's government in April this year. After her return the Pakistani Mission in US remained without an Ambassador for six months. It is expected that Dr Maleeha Lodhi would take up her new assignment in Washington in early December.

Sources told THE MUSLIM that Benazir Government would replace about 20 non-career ambassadors who were appointed on political consideration by Nawaz Government and were allowed to continue by Moin Qureshi's caretaker administration.

Ambassador-Designate to U.S. Viewed

BK3110095793 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 31 Oct 93 p 10

[Editorial: "A Decision That Merits Welcome"]

[Text] The federal government's reported decision to send Dr.Maleeha Lohdi, editor of THE NEWS, Rawalpindi, as ambassador to Washington merits a welcome. Dr. Lodhi, the first woman editor of a daily, is known in the subcontinent as a highly-educated and brilliant journalist. She is also known for her pen in the Western media. The most significant aspect to her appointment is that she will be representing the newly-established government in Islamabad under Benazir Bhutto. Unlike Abida Hussain, whose appointment by Nawaz Shariff was based on the notion that she would help brush aside the impression in the US that Pakistan is being ruled by extremist Islamists. Maleeha Lodhi's appointment is (word indistinct) not premised on such a flimsy belief. The tense Pakistan-US relations under Nawaz Sharif can be quoted as an evidence of the snobbish Abida Hussain's failure. It is also proven that more smoking of a woman in Western society does not help to be a diplomat. Being an unpopular boss, even among the embassy staff, she damaged Pakistan's foreign office's image in Washington.

Another important aspect to Dr. Maleeha Lodhi's appointment to this challenging position is that M. Akram Zaki, who was designated by caretaker prime minister Moin Quershi as ambassador to Washington, has been ditched. By and large, Akram Zaki's appointment was seen by the Islamabad foreign office as an unpleasant decision. The caretaker's decision was rather an act of favouritism since Zaki is not known as a distinguished career diplomat. From his secretary-generalship till his retirement last month, the menace of sycophancy flourished in the foreign office. Only time will prove whether or not Dr Lodhi can succeed in emerging as a better choice than Abida Hussain and Akram Zaki, it is however hoped that she will [words indistinct] democratic Pakistan. No doubt, it will be a formidable task for Dr. Lodhi to win American confidence during her stay in Washington. The strained Pak-US relations can only be normalised by fresh initiatives to be taken by Islamabad. American apprehensions about Pakistan's nuclear programme and the US threat to label Pakistan a terrorist state needs bold and courageous initiatives to explore avenues for improving the strained ties.

'Steady' Shift in U.S. Kashmir Stance Seen

BK3110100593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 31 Oct 93 p 6

[Editorial: "US-Pak Relations"]

[Text] A steady and welcome shift towards more realistic perceptions on Kashmir has been in evidence in the US stance for some time. Recent manifestations of the shift have included President Clinton's reference to the issue in his speech to the UN General Assembly. But the exposition of the US position has never been clearer than the statement of the administration the other day, recognising Kashmir as a disputed area and denying the legitimacy of the accession to India which had formed the basis of Delhi's case all these years. The US statement also laid a number of other Indian myths to rest. By pointing to the strongly indigenous, in fact self-sustaining character of the uprising in Kashmir, the Americans have rejected the constant India refrain about the movement being fuelled from Pakistan. The US State Department has called the blatant human rights violations being perpetrated by the Indian army as totally unjustified, notwithstanding the existence of an insurgency. As to mediating in the conflict, the US remains committed to playing such a role only if both sides were to invite it. It has, however, reiterated the centrality of the Kashmiri people in any viable solution.

The Cassandras in Pakistan who continue to brood on the possibility of a betrayal of the Kashmiri cause by acquiescing in an Oslo-type solution of the kind the PLO and Israel have recently agreed under American beneficence are nevertheless well aware that no Pakistani government can even contemplate such a step without signing its own death warrant. The newly elected government is due to receive Ms Robin Raphel who, as Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, is the crucial US administation figure as far as US- Pakistan relations are concerned. Her visit is a good opportunity, but too much should perhaps not be read into it. The goodwill exuded by Ms. Raphel's eve-of-visit statement aside, there nevertheless remain a number of intractable problems in the US- Pakistan relationship. The US has no monopoly on nuclear nonproliferation concerns. Ms. Raphel might find when she is here, if she is not already aware, that Pakistan has been forced to take a position on its nuclear programme purely out of concern for its secrurity, given India's burgeoning nuclear arsenal and delivery system. Pakistan has nevertheless attempted repeatedly to suggest ways and means to address proliferation concerns by mooting a regional conference of five powers. The US administration, despite Ms. Raphel's admission that the Pressler Amendment under which aid remains cut off to Pakistan is discriminatory, has hidden behind the fig-leaf of the Amendment being US law and therefore enforceable until something better emerges. Yet no such law has ever been suggested, let alone tabled, against India, which has actually carried out a nuclear explosion as long ago as 1974. Although Ms. Raphel seems to have rejected the proposal of a nuclear freeze as inadequate, and argued the US wishes to see a total disappearance of nuclear arms from South Asia, she failed to explain how such a goal could be achieved in in the presence of a one-sided, Pakistan- specific set of sanctions under Mr. Pressier's unique law. Of course Ms. Raphel will also be carrying a broader agenda of discussions with the new government, including questions like democracy, human rights, economic liberalisation, and the issue of refugees. Important as all these are, without tackling the core issues of Kashmir and the security threat which emanates from India, it is difficult to imagine how the agenda of peace and nuclear nonproliferation for South Asia can be advanced. Not even the appointment of a new Ambassador to the US is sufficient to create significant movement in US-Pakistan relations without tackling this basic problem.